PICTORIAL Love Stories

No. 23

10¢ F.P.I.

NOV - 4 P

"Small Town Snob"

BROADWAY LIGHTS

Me-Torn Cupid

Beauty Briefs

PICTORIAL LOVE STORIES' DRAMATIZED BEAUTY BRIEFS...

DANGER! ~~SOFT~~ THIN SHOULDERS!

OH, DARN IT! WHY DID LARRY HAVE TO BRING HIS SISTER! THE WAY ALL THOSE BOYS HANG AROUND HER... OH, WHAT'S THE USE... I'M JUST GIVING MYSELF SOUR GRAPES AGAIN. THEY WOULDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME ANYWAY... I'M SO THIN AND BONY...!

BETTY, DARLING, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU LATELY? YOU SEEM SO QUIET AND SAD! WHY, I REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE KIDS TOGETHER, YOU WERE THE LIFE OF THE PARTY!

IT'S NOTHING, LORNA. I... I JUST DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE... JOINING IN THE FUN, LATELY!

BETTY, I DON'T WANT TO BE PERSONAL... BUT YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT YOUR FIGURE AREN'T YOU? YOU KNOW YOU'RE TOO THIN. WELL, DEAR I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THAT LITTLE MATTER!

OH, LORNA! YOU MEAN THERE'S REALLY SOMETHING I CAN DO TO HELP MYSELF!

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

...AND YOU JUST DO THAT EXERCISE I TAUGHT YOU EVERY DAY AND WATCH THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR FIGURE! AND DON'T FORGET WHAT I TOLD YOU I WAS TOO THIN ONCE! IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT FOR LOTS OF GIRLS TO LOOK THEIR BEST!

OH, THANKS, LORNA! I'LL DO THE EXERCISE EVERY DAY FAITHFULLY! AND I'LL DO A LOT OF SWIMMING!

NEXT MORNING....

GOSH! I HOPE THIS WORKS! LET'S SEE, NOW... HANDS FLAT ON FLOOR, AND TURNED IN TOWARD EACH OTHER, KNEES BACK AND TOGETHER, ELBOWS OUT. WELL HERE GOES! THE IDEA IS TO TRY TO TOUCH MY RIGHT HAND FIRST WITH MY CHIN....

...KEEPING MY LEFT HAND IN POSITION, LEFT SHOULDER AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE... OOH! MY GOODNESS, THAT DOES SOMETHING ALRIGHT! I CAN FEEL THE STRAIN ACROSS MY CHEST AND IN MY UPPER ARMS AND SHOULDERS! WELL, NOW FOR THE NEXT PART....

UP STRAIGHT AND THEN REPEAT THE WHOLE BUSINESS TO THE LEFT SIDE! RIGHT SHOULDER HIGH, ELBOW AT RIGHT ANGLE, STRAIN TO REACH HAND! OWWW! THAT HURTS! BUT I'LL DO IT EVERY DAY FOR A MONTH IF IT KILLS ME!

ONE MONTH LATER...

COME ON, BETTY, HOW ABOUT A GAME OF BALL?

YOU PROMISED TO SWIM WITH ME!

IS OUR DATE TONIGHT STILL ON, HON'?

HEY, HEY! ONE AT A TIME!

SOME FIGURE!

HEY, LOOK AT BETTY!

YOU LOOK AT HER, DARN IT! THAT FIGURE HAS ME GREEN WITH ENVY!

DON'T FORGET, GIRLS... THIN SHOULDERS LEAD TO DANGER!... DANGER TO YOUR POPULARITY! BE SURE TO TRY THE ABOVE EXERCISE FOR THE UPPER BODY... AND LOOK FOR THE NEXT HELPFUL HINT IN PICTORIAL LOVE STORIES' BEAUTY BRIEFS!

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COVER GIRL: JOY LANSING, Hal Roach Television Starlet. (Photo by Don Ornitz, Globe.)

Hotel HOPEFUL

HOTEL HOPEFUL IS A BOARDING HOUSE IN OUR LARGEST CITY. IN REALITY, IT'S MRS. LUCINDA MICHAEL'S RESIDENCE FOR YOUNG LADIES. BUT TO THE YOUNG ASPIRANTS TO FAME AND FORTUNE WHO COME UNDER "AUNT MIKE'S" MOTHERING WING, TO THOSE WHO DID WIN THEIR BATTLES...AND TO THOSE WHO FAILED...IT WILL ALWAYS BE JUST **HOTEL HOPEFUL!**

THOSE PICTURES UP THERE ARE OUR HALL OF FAME. HAVEN'T MADE IT MYSELF YET...BUT I'M STILL TRYING! RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF LORRIE LANE. LORRIE NEVER MADE THE HALL OF FAME, IN FACT, SHE NEVER REALLY LIVED IN OUR HOTEL HOPEFUL, BUT...WELL, THIS IS HOW IT HAPPENED....

ONE AFTERNOON, AUNT MIKE BURST INTO THE LIVING ROOM WITH A STRANGER IN TOW...

GIRLS! GIRLS, LOOK WHO'S COME TO VISIT US! LINDA LANE! THE MOVIE STAR!

BUT MRS. MICHAELS, I'M NOT...!

STRIKE ME PINK! IT IS HER!

GOSH, MISS LANE! WE'RE FLATTERED!

BUT I'M NOT LINDA LANE! MY NAME IS LORRIE....

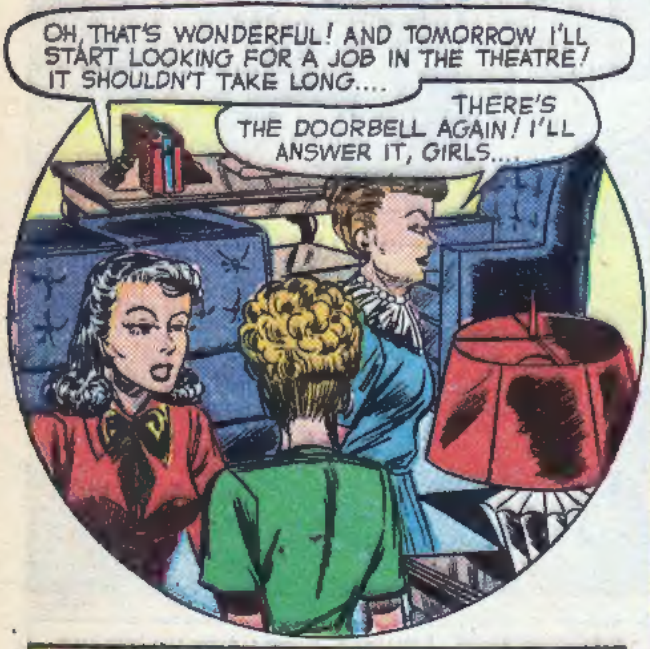
LET HER ALONE, KIDS! HONEY, MY NAME IS JEAN STAGG. IF YOU'RE NOT LINDA LANE, YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN IT TO US! YOU LOOK LIKE HER TWIN SISTER!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU! I **AM** LINDA LANE'S TWIN SISTER, LORRIE LANE!

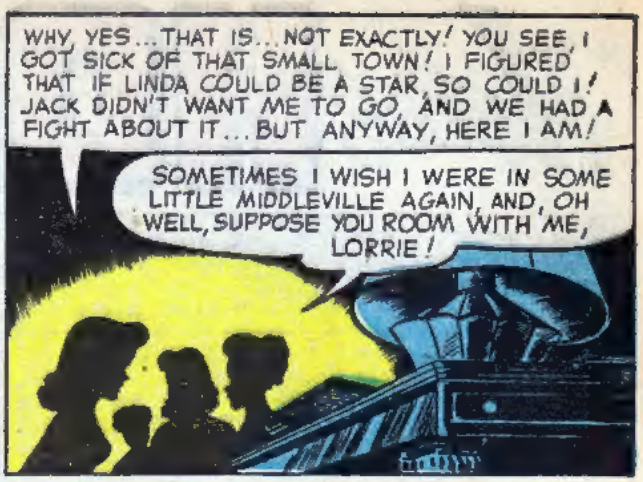
WELL, I'LL BE! THE EXACT IMAGE!

YOU'D BETTER SIT DOWN, LORRIE! **THIS** WE'LL HAVE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT!

WELL, THERE ISN'T MUCH TO TELL. LINDA CAME TO NEW YORK, A MOVIE SCOUT SAW HER... AND SHE'S BEEN A STAR FOR TWO YEARS NOW. ME, I'VE BEEN BACK IN MIDDLEVILLE, WORKING IN A STORE, AND...WELL, I WAS ENGAGED TO A BOY NAMED JACK DUNN AND....
NOT ENGAGED ANYMORE, LORRIE?


OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL! AND TOMORROW I'LL START LOOKING FOR A JOB IN THE THEATRE! IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG....
THERE'S THE DOORBELL AGAIN! I'LL ANSWER IT, GIRLS....

WELL, THE TWINS COULDN'T TALK VERY WELL WITH ALL THE OTHERS LISTENING, SO I MANAGED TO DRAG THEM AWAY UP TO MY ROOM. AND THEN CAME THE THUNDERBOLT....
LINDA, I CAME TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU. WILL YOU TAKE MY PLACE FOR A FEW DAYS?
WHAT? WHY, I COULDN'T....
PARDON ME... AM I HEARING CORRECTLY?


WHY, YES...THAT IS...NOT EXACTLY! YOU SEE, I GOT SICK OF THAT SMALL TOWN! I FIGURED THAT IF LINDA COULD BE A STAR, SO COULD I! JACK DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO, AND WE HAD A FIGHT ABOUT IT... BUT ANYWAY, HERE I AM!
SOMETIMES I WISH I WERE IN SOME LITTLE MIDDLEVILLE AGAIN, AND, OH WELL, SUPPOSE YOU ROOM WITH ME, LORRIE!

LINDA! HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TRIPLETS ?!
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!
HELLO, LORRIE! I PHONED MOTHER AND SHE TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE!

LORRIE, I NEED A REST! BUT IF I WENT BACK TO MIDDLEVILLE AS MYSELF, IT WOULDN'T BE ANY BETTER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE ME, LORRIE. I'LL TELL YOU JUST WHAT TO DO AND SAY! PLEASE, LORRIE!
GO AHEAD, HONEY! IT WOULD BE EXCITING!
BUT, LINDA! I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO ACT.... HOW TO...

TEN MINUTES LATER...
AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT! WHY YOU'LL BE WONDERFUL!
ALRIGHT, LINDA! I GUESS I'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS JEAN WILL BE WITH ME!
YOU BET I WILL! I WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR A MILLION!
HAVE A GOOD TIME, LORRIE!
BYE! HAVE A GOOD REST!
WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU INTO THOSE CLOTHES OF LINDA'S IN A HURRY, DEAR!
WELL, I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT NIGHT AS LONG AS I LIVE! LINDA'S CAR TOOK US TO THE THEATRE....
JEAN! JUST LOOK AT THAT CROWD! HOW WILL WE EVER GET THROUGH?
WELL, LINDA DOES IT... I GUESS WE CAN TOO, WITH LUCK!
HEY! THERE'S LINDA LANE!
GIMME AN AUTOGRAPH MISS LANE!
LOOK AT THOSE CLOTHES!
SOMEBODY TORE MY DRESS
STIFF UPPER LIP, KID!
MAKE WAY!
IT WAS A WONDERFUL PLAY BUT THE INTERMISSION BROUGHT US BACK TO REALITY....
MY, IT'S WARM IN HERE. I THINK I'LL GO OUTSIDE AND GET SOME AIR!
BETTER NOT, MISS LANE! THAT CROWD IS GETTING ROUGH OUT THERE!
AFTER THE PLAY, WE MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE MOB, BUT WHEN WE GOT TO THE 31 CLUB, WHERE LINDA'S PRESS AGENT WAS TO MEET US, IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE VERY SAME PEOPLE WERE WAITING OUTSIDE AGAIN!
HURRY, JEAN.... I'LL HAVE TO FIX MY DRESS AGAIN
LINDA LANE IS STUCK UP!
AUTOGRAPH! AUTOGRAPH!
BOOOOo
THIS WAY, LINDA! YOU'RE LATE! THE PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE GETTING IMPATIENT!
BUT MY DRESS! OH, ALRIGHT!
3

HERE'S THE IDEA, LINDA! YOU'RE DOING NEW YORK WITH THREE YOUNG ACTORS FROM THE STUDIO... THEY NEED THE PUBLICITY, SEE? YOU DANCE WITH THEM, THE OTHERS CUT IN AND SO ON... GET IT?
WHAT'S WRONG, LORRIE? YOU LOOK ILL.
I HAVEN'T EATEN FOR HOURS... BUT I GUESS THERE ISN'T TIME FOR THAT.
I CERTAINLY HOPE THE PUBLICITY WILL HELP YOU, MR....
PLEASE, MISS LANE! YOU'RE BLOCKING MY FACE FROM THE CAMERA!
IT WENT ON FOR HOURS. THEY CUT IN, DANCED, TOOK PICTURES UNTIL I KNEW LORRIE COULDN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF IT.
IT'S MY TURN, I TELL YOU! I'M CUTTING IN!
NOT YET! I HAVEN'T HAD MY SHARE OF PICTURES TAKEN!
COULDN'T WE JUST SIT DOWN FOR A MINUTE...?
LOOK, YOU TWO! QUIT ARGUING AND GET BUSY SHOWING YOUR PROFILES!
BUT HE'S STEALING MY TURN!
I AM NOT! YOU HAD PLENTY OF....
LOOK OUT! SHE'S FAINTING!
CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S EXHAUSTED? SHE HASN'T EATEN FOR HOURS.. I'M TAKING HER HOME!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT... WE NEED MORE SHOTS! WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
I'M ALRIGHT, JEAN...
I'M A FRIEND OF HERS, WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU CAN SAY!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, TAKE HER HOME! EVERYTHING HAPPENS TO ME!
CLEAR THE WAY, THERE! TELL THE POLICEMAN OUTSIDE TO CLEAR THE SIDEWALK!
4

I TOOK LORRIE HOME TO LINDA'S EXPENSIVE APARTMENT, FIXED HER SOMETHING TO EAT AND PUT HER TO BED. SHE WAS WORN OUT, POOR THING! BUT NEXT MORNING, WHEN I WOKE UP...
HEY, YOU'RE UP EARLY! HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER LAST NIGHT?
OH, I FEEL FINE! I GUESS THINGS LIKE LAST NIGHT DON'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN. GOSH, JEAN, ISN'T IT EXCITING?
MISS LANE, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE FROM THE NEWSPAPERS OUTSIDE, AND....
OH, AM I SUPPOSED TO SEE THEM? WELL LET THEM IN, AND...
THEY ARE IN, MISS!
I'M FROM MOVIE NEWS, MISS LANE
GOOD MORNING, MISS LANE! HOW ABOUT A STATEMENT AS TO WHY YOU FAINTED LAST NIGHT? OVERWORK?
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT PICTURE?
DID YOU REALLY FAINT BECAUSE YOU'RE CARRYING A TORCH FOR MEL SAYLOR?
PLEASE! PLEASE! I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING RIGHT DOWN TO THE WAY I SCRUB MY TEETH!
CAN YOU COOK? WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME? WHAT SIZE DO YOU WEAR?
DO YOU WEAR A GIRDLE? ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF LOVE?
HOLLYWOOD ON THE PHONE, MISS LANE...
FINALLY, THAT EVENING WE MANAGED TO CLEAR THE ROOM. I THOUGHT LORRIE WOULD HAVE TIME FOR A BIT OF REST... BUT NO! THE DOORBELL AGAIN!
MISS LANE, MR. GARY GRANLUND IS HERE....
GARY GRANLUND! OH MY GOODNESS! DO I LOOK ALRIGHT? SHALL I LET HIM IN?
BABY, THIS ONE ANYBODY WOULD LET IN...
AND THEN THERE HE WAS, BIG AS LIFE... GARY GRANLUND, THE HEARTTHROB OF THE NATION! MR. MOVIES HIMSELF!
LINDA LANE! DARLING, I KNOW WE HAVEN'T MET BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT FOR MONTHS! YOU ARE AS BEAUTIFUL AS THEY SAY!
HE WAS JUST AS HANDSOME AS HIS PICTURES, AND CHARMING TOO. BUT... SOMEHOW, THE WAY HE TALKED BEGAN TO ANNOY ME....
CALL ME GARY, PLEASE! NOW NOT THAT IT ISN'T WONDERFUL JUST LOOKING AT YOU... BUT I'VE A LITTLE BUSINESS TO TALK OVER, MY DEAR.
OH, OF COURSE! DON'T MIND JEAN, SHE'S MY SECRETARY!
5

WELL, DARLING, I'VE DECIDED TO HAVE YOU PLAY OPPOSITE ME IN MY NEXT PICTURE! IT WILL BE WONDERFUL FOR YOU, AS YOU CAN SEE! PLAYING OPPOSITE ME MEANS ABSOLOTELY TOP STARDOM FOR ANY ACTRESS IN THE WORLD!
BUT...BUT LIN...I WORK FOR WOLF PICTURES AND YOU ARE WITH UNIWORLD!
ANYWAY, SHE'S A TOP STAR ALREADY!
THAT'S JUST IT, DEAR! I'VE HAD MY LAWYERS WORKING SECRETLY, AND THEY'VE DISCOVERED HOW YOU CAN BREAK YOUR CONTRACT EASILY! DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH IT COULD MEAN TO YOU TO BE SEEN PLAYING WITH ME!?
BREAK MY CONTRACT! BUT MR. WOLF HAS BEEN WONDERFUL! WHY HE BUILT LIN...BUILT ME UP FROM NOTHING! I COULDN'T DO THAT!
WELL, IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME! POOR LORRIE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT, BUT I'D BEEN AROUND A LITTLE.....
DARLING, I CAN MAKE YOU FAMOUS! YOU NEED ME TO....
LET'S FACE IT, MR. GRANLUND! YOUR LAST PICTURE WAS TERRIBLE! THE TRUTH IS YOU NEED HER!
LINDA, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CARRY ON A PRIVATE CONVERSATION?
WHY...I... JEAN DOESN'T...
ALRIGHT, I'LL GO...BUT I'LL BE RIGHT IN THE NEXT ROOM IF YOU NEED ME, HONEY!
NOW, MY DEAR, WE CAN REALLY COME TO THE POINT! I NOT ONLY WANT YOU IN MY PICTURE, LINDA...I WANT YOU FOR MYSELF!
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE'VE JUST MET...AND... AREN'T YOU MARRIED?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER, DARLING? THINK OF IT! LINDA LANE AND GARY GRANLUND...WHAT PUBLICITY! AND AT THE SAME TIME, YOU'LL REALLY HAVE ME...NOT JUST IN THE PAPERS, BUT REALLY!
WHY YOU CONCEITED, HATEFUL APE! GET AWAY FROM ME!
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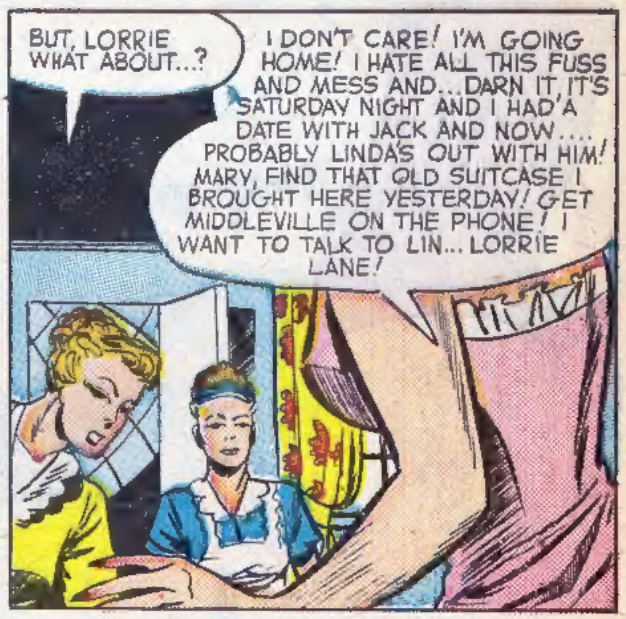
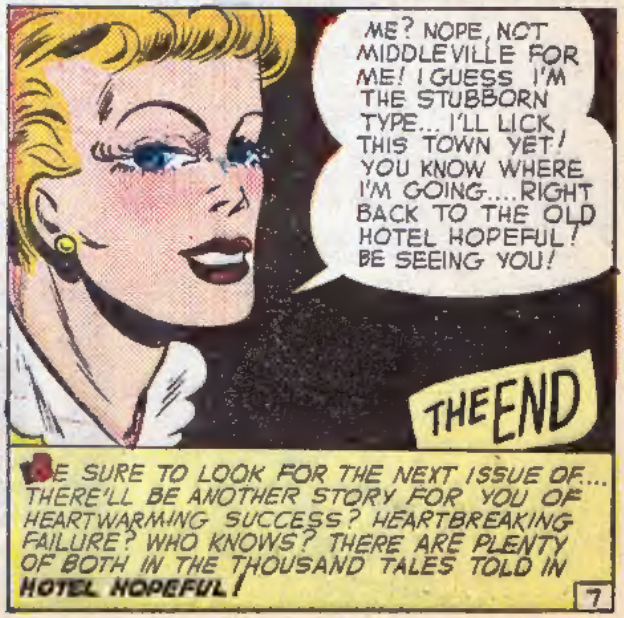
GET OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT! YOU...YOU...
YOU'LL HEAR FROM MY LAWYERS ABOUT THIS!
I GET IT NOW! THE GREAT GARY GRANLUND IS LOSING HIS POPULARITY AND HE NEEDS LINDA LANE FOR A CRUTCH! HA HA HA!

WELL, LORRIE... BETTER GET READY FOR THE BANQUET TONIGHT!
JEAN, I'M... I'M NOT GOING! I'M SICK OF ALL THIS! LINDA CAN HAVE THIS LIFE! I'M GOING HOME!


BUT, LORRIE WHAT ABOUT...?
I DON'T CARE! I'M GOING HOME! I HATE ALL THIS FUSS AND MESS AND... DARN IT, IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AND I HAD A DATE WITH JACK AND NOW.... PROBABLY LINDA'S OUT WITH HIM! MARY, FIND THAT OLD SUITCASE I BROUGHT HERE YESTERDAY! GET MIDDLEVILLE ON THE PHONE! I WANT TO TALK TO LIN... LORRIE LANE!

IT WAS NO USE... I COULDN'T STOP HER. FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER LORRIE LANE WAS ON THE TRAIN FOR HOME... AND WHEN I SAW THE SMILE ON HER FACE I REALIZED WHAT SHE WAS THINKING. SHE WAS GOING BACK TO HER OWN HOME AND TO JACK. AND I THINK THAT SHE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING, FOR HER....

GOODBYE, JEAN! YOU'VE BEEN WONDERFUL... I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU! IF YOU'RE EVER IN MIDDLEVILLE, DROP IN ON ME... I MEAN US, JACK AND ME!
GOOD LUCK, HONEY!
TRACK 5
2513
PENNSY

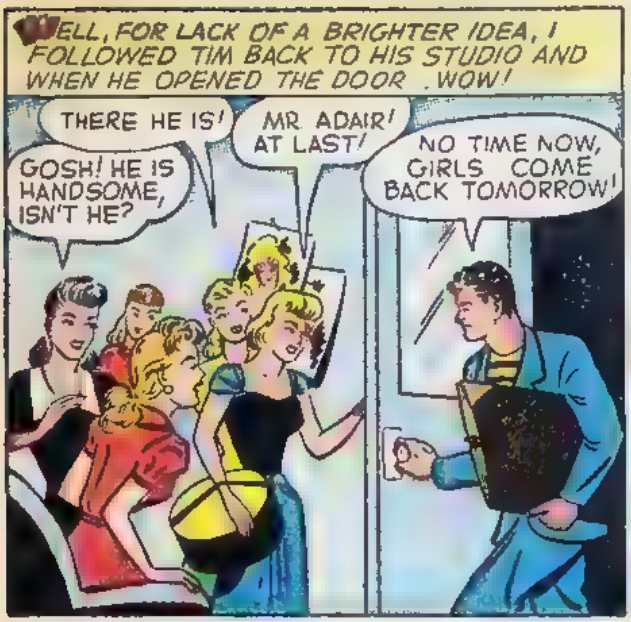

ME? NOPE, NOT MIDDLEVILLE FOR ME! I GUESS I'M THE STUBBORN TYPE... I'LL LICK THIS TOWN YET! YOU KNOW WHERE I'M GOING.... RIGHT BACK TO THE OLD HOTEL HOPEFUL! BE SEEING YOU!
THE END

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF... THERE'LL BE ANOTHER STORY FOR YOU OF HEARTWARMING SUCCESS? HEARTBREAKING FAILURE? WHO KNOWS? THERE ARE PLENTY OF BOTH IN THE THOUSAND TALES TOLD IN **HOTEL HOPEFUL!**

HI! WELL, HERE I GO AGAIN! HUH? WHADDYA MEAN...WHERE? HERE I GO AGAIN GETTING MIXED UP IN A LOVER'S QUARREL. OF COURSE...THAT'S MY **BUSINESS!** THAT'S ALL I DO, DAY IN AND DAY OUT... PLUG PEOPLE WITH MY LITTLE ARROWS, MAKE THEM FALL IN LOVE...AND THEN WORK MY HEAD OFF TRYING TO **KEEP** THEM THERE! OH, COME ON! YOU KNOW WHO I AM..... IT'S...

Me... DAN CUPID

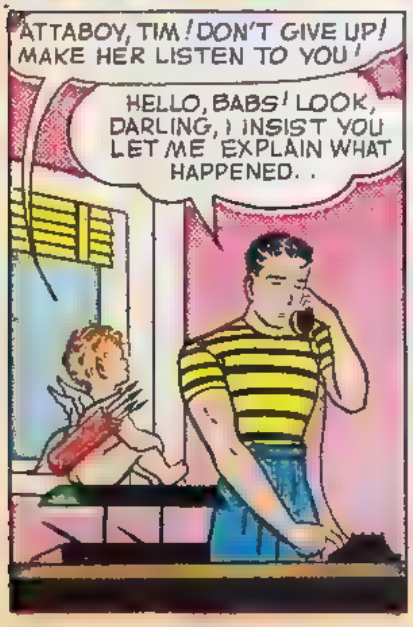
TIM ADAIR, WE'RE THROUGH.. AND THAT'S FINAL! THE IDEA, LETTING ME WAIT HERE IN CENTRAL PARK FOR **TWO HOURS** WHILE YOU... MAKE EYES AT THAT VAMPIRE OF A WOMAN! YOU...YOU WOLF, YOU!
BUT, BABS! SHERRY WAS **MODELING** FOR ME....
THAT BOY THERE...HE'S TIM ADAIR, ONE OF THE FINEST YOUNG MAGAZINE ILLUSTRATORS IN THE COUNTRY TROUBLE IS, HE'S JUST TOO HANDSOME AND CHARMING. EVERY GIRL HE MEETS FALLS FOR HIM....AND BABS DOESN'T LIKE IT, AS YOU CAN SEE! BARBARA CRAWFORD, THAT IS...SHE'S THE GIRL HE REALLY LOVES!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT OLD ROUTINE THIS IS THE FIFTH TIME YOU'VE PROMISED TO PAINT MY PICTURE AND EVERY TIME YOU STOOD ME UP AND SAID YOU WERE WORKING... AND **ALWAYS** WITH SHERRY FANNING!
BUT IT'S TRUE! I'M SORRY, DARLING....
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME TO BREAK THIS UP! BABS! HEY, LISTEN! HE LOVES YOU, SILLY... HE REALLY DOES! SHERRY MEANS NOTHING TO HIM! HMMPH! DOESN'T HEAR A WORD!
IT'S TOO LATE TO BE SORRY! GO ON BACK TO YOUR DARLING SHERRY! AND DON'T EVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN!
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT, BABS....
OH, YES I DO! GOODBYE...FOR GOOD!
HONEY, COME BACK! HONEST, I NEED YOU!
WELL, I'LL BE DARNED! I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D GO THAT FAR! THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A REALLY TOUGH JOB OF PATCHING UP FOR YOURS TRULY!

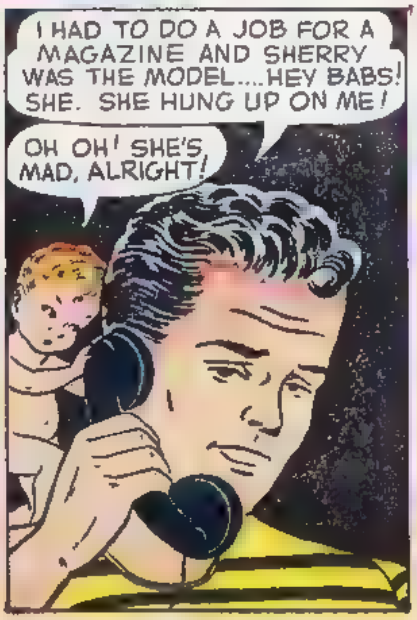

WELL, FOR LACK OF A BRIGHTER IDEA, I FOLLOWED TIM BACK TO HIS STUDIO AND WHEN HE OPENED THE DOOR . WOW!
THERE HE IS!
MR. ADAIR! AT LAST!
GOSH! HE IS HANDSOME, ISN'T HE?
NO TIME NOW, GIRLS COME BACK TOMORROW!

BUT, MR. ADAIR, YOU SAID I COULD MODEL FOR YOU!
PLEASE USE ME. .I'LL WORK FOR NOTHING!
SORRY, KIDS NOT TODAY!
AWW, MR ADAIR! I'VE WAITED ALL DAY!
MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP, GIRLS..

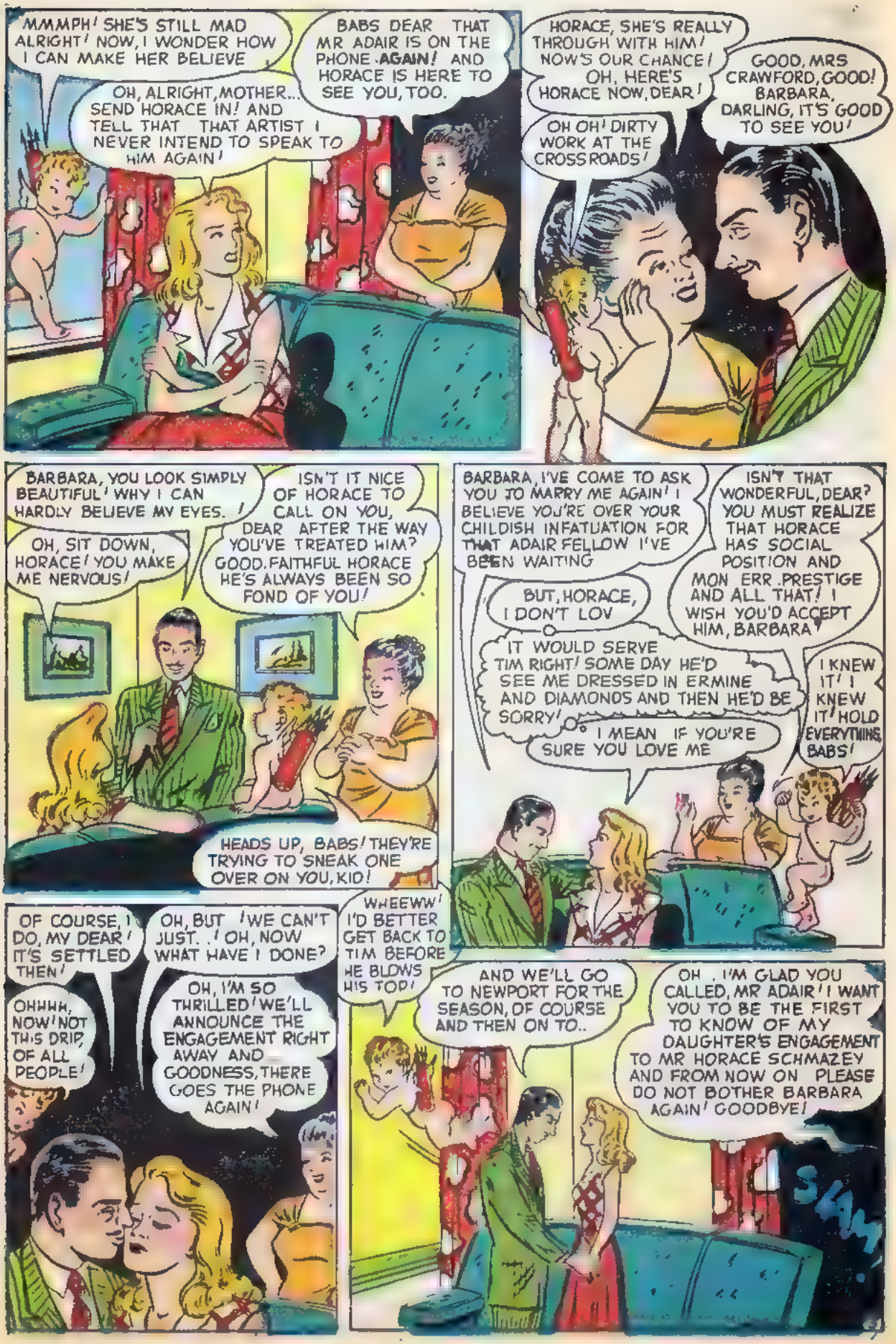
SEE WHAT I MEAN? HE'S JUST TOO ATTRACTIVE FOR HIS OWN GOOD! AHA! AND HERE COMES THE VILLIAN OF OUR STORY .SHERRY FANNING!
.. MR ADAIR BELONGS TO ME! DON'T YOU, TIMMY, DARLING?
NO, DOGGONE IT, I DONT!

HMMMM! TOUCHY TODAY, AREN'T WE? WELL, I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU TONIGHT, MISTER!
SLAM!

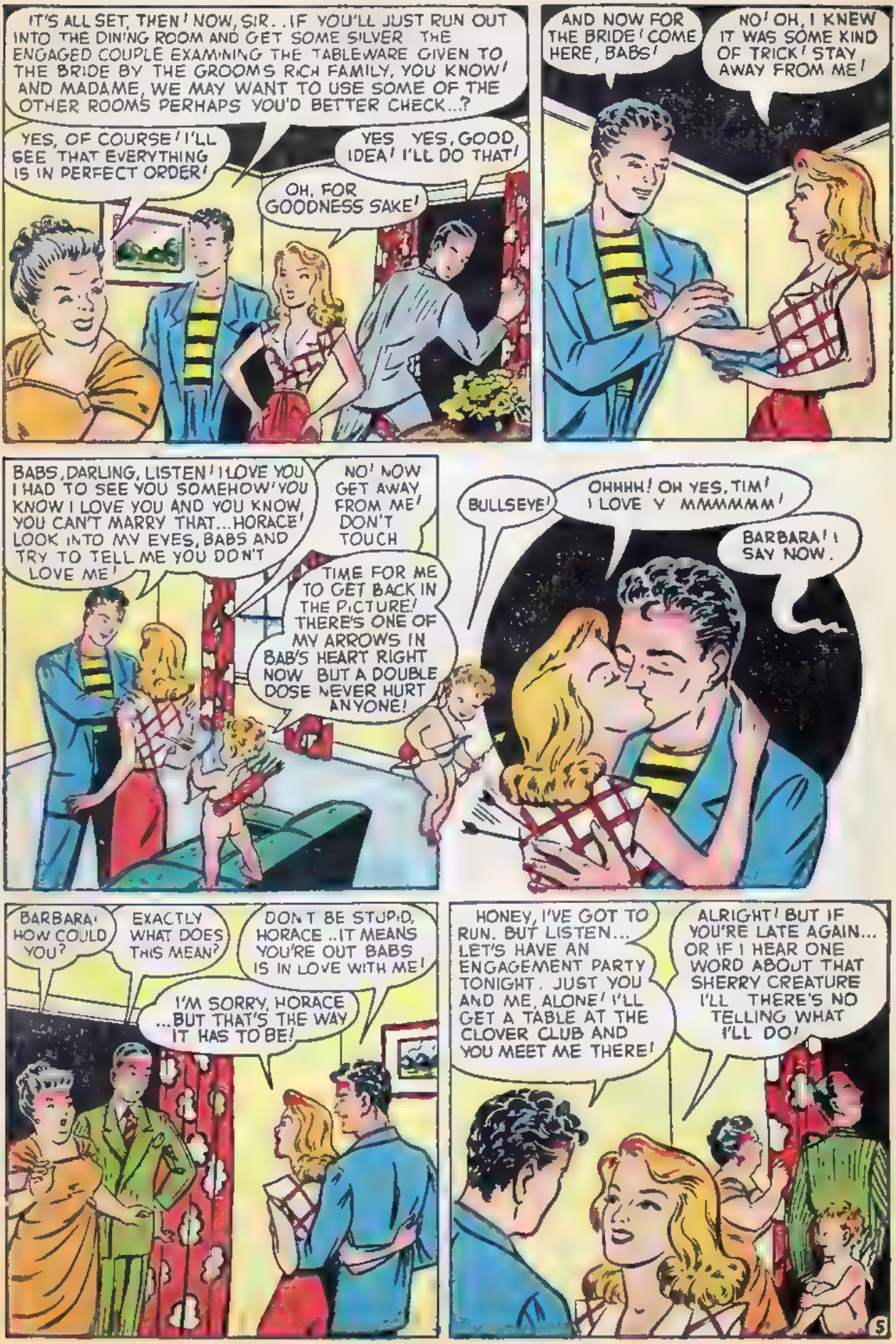

ATTABOY, TIM! DON'T GIVE UP! MAKE HER LISTEN TO YOU!
HELLO, BABS! LOOK, DARLING, I INSIST YOU LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED. .


I HAD TO DO A JOB FOR A MAGAZINE AND SHERRY WAS THE MODEL....HEY BABS! SHE. SHE HUNG UP ON ME!
OH OH! SHE'S MAD, ALRIGHT!

WELL, IT WON'T DO HER ANY GOOD! I'LL JUST KEEP CALLING 'TILL SHE HAS TO TALK TO ME!
SOMEHOW THE SOUND OF THAT SLAMMED PHONE TELLS ME TIM ISN'T GETTING ANYWHERE THAT WAY! GUESS I'D BETTER PAY THE STUBBORN LITTLE LADY A PERSONAL CALL!


MMMPH! SHE'S STILL MAD ALRIGHT! NOW, I WONDER HOW I CAN MAKE HER BELIEVE
BABS DEAR THAT MR ADAIR IS ON THE PHONE AGAIN! AND HORACE IS HERE TO SEE YOU, TOO.
OH, ALRIGHT, MOTHER... SEND HORACE IN! AND TELL THAT THAT ARTIST I NEVER INTEND TO SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN!
HORACE, SHE'S REALLY THROUGH WITH HIM! NOW'S OUR CHANCE! OH, HERE'S HORACE NOW, DEAR!
GOOD, MRS CRAWFORD, GOOD! BARBARA, DARLING, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
OH OH! DIRTY WORK AT THE CROSS ROADS!
BARBARA, YOU LOOK SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL! WHY I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY EYES.
ISN'T IT NICE OF HORACE TO CALL ON YOU, DEAR AFTER THE WAY YOU'VE TREATED HIM? GOOD, FAITHFUL HORACE HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO FOND OF YOU!
OH, SIT DOWN, HORACE! YOU MAKE ME NERVOUS!
HEADS UP, BABS! THEY'RE TRYING TO SNEAK ONE OVER ON YOU, KID!
BARBARA, I'VE COME TO ASK YOU TO MARRY ME AGAIN! I BELIEVE YOU'RE OVER YOUR CHILDISH INFATUATION FOR THAT ADAIR FELLOW I'VE BEEN WAITING
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL, DEAR? YOU MUST REALIZE THAT HORACE HAS SOCIAL POSITION AND MON ERR..PRESTIGE AND ALL THAT! I WISH YOU'D ACCEPT HIM, BARBARA
BUT, HORACE, I DON'T LOV
IT WOULD SERVE TIM RIGHT! SOME DAY HE'D SEE ME DRESSED IN ERMINE AND DIAMONDS AND THEN HE'D BE SORRY!
I MEAN IF YOU'RE SURE YOU LOVE ME
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! HOLD EVERYTHING, BABS!
OF COURSE, I DO, MY DEAR! IT'S SETTLED THEN!
OHHHH, NOW! NOT THIS DRIP, OF ALL PEOPLE!
OH, BUT WE CAN'T JUST..! OH, NOW WHAT HAVE I DONE?
OH, I'M SO THRILLED! WE'LL ANNOUNCE THE ENGAGEMENT RIGHT AWAY AND GOODNESS, THERE GOES THE PHONE AGAIN!
WHEEWW! I'D BETTER GET BACK TO TIM BEFORE HE BLOWS HIS TOP!
AND WE'LL GO TO NEWPORT FOR THE SEASON, OF COURSE AND THEN ON TO..
OH . I'M GLAD YOU CALLED, MR ADAIR! I WANT YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW OF MY DAUGHTER'S ENGAGEMENT TO MR HORACE SCHMAZEY AND FROM NOW ON PLEASE DO NOT BOTHER BARBARA AGAIN! GOODBYE!
SLAM!

WELL, WHEN I GOT BACK TO TIM'S OFFICE HE WAS ON THE PHONE TOO . BUT THIS TIME IT WAS A BUSINESS DEAL. SO NATURALLY I EVESDROPPED.. AND LUCKY I DID TOO!
BUT, TIM, LISTEN! LIVING MAGAZINE WANTS A DOZEN ILLUSTRATIONS FOR A SERIES CALLED, "THEY'RE ENGAGED"! YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT, TIM!
I SAID, NO! I'M GOING ON A LONG VACATION TO THE HIMALAYAS OR SOMEPLACE!
BUT IT'S A CINCH, TIM! YOU JUST FIND AN ENGAGED COUPLE AND DRAW SOME SKETCHES OF THEM SENDING INVITATIONS AND LOOKING AT HOUSES AND THINGS AND .
HEY, WAIT, TIM! WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE BABS AGAIN! PICK HER AND SCHMAHOOZY FOR YOUR ENGAGED COUPLE! TIM! YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR ME!
DOGGONE IT, DON'T BE A DOPE! HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET BABS BACK AGAIN!
I DON'T WANT.. WAIT, JOE! CAN I PICK ANY COUPLE I WANT? IF I CAN... I'LL TAKE THE JOB!
ANYBODY YOU LIKE, TIM! BUT GET GOING RIGHT AWAY!
YAHHHOOO! JUST WAIT 'TILL I SEE BABS AGAIN! SHE KNOWS DARNED WELL I LOVE HER, AND SHE LOVES ME, TOO! I'LL MARRY THAT GAL YET!
HURRY UP! HURRY UP! FOR THE LOVE OF PETE!
WELL, TIM "HURRIED UP" ALRIGHT! IN FIVE MINUTES FLAT HE WAS MARCHING INTO BABS' LIVING ROOM, DESPITE MAMA'S PROTESTS..
HOW DARE YOU!? I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME IN!
TIM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING....?
I SAY, ADAIR, THIS IS AN OUTRAGE YOU KNOW!
STRICTLY BUSINESS, HORACE... STRICTLY BUSINESS!
MADAME, LIVING MAGAZINE HAS CHOSEN YOUR DAUGHTER AS THE MOST CHARMING BRIDE-TO-BE IN THE NATION! HER FACE AND THAT OF HER HANDSOME GROOM WILL APPEAR ON THE COVER OF THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST MAGAZINE AND ON TEN PLACES INSIDE! AND, OF COURSE, SO WILL YOURS ... AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL HOME!
WHY ISN'T THAT NICE I MEAN.. .
NOW, MOTHER, WAIT A MINUTE
AND YOU, SIR . MR SCHOOZLE, ISN'T IT? WHAT AN INSPIRATION YOU'LL BE TO ALL THE OTHER YOUNG BRIDEGROOMS WHO WILL TRY TO IMITATE YOUR DRESS AND YOUR MANNER!
SCHMAZE BUT I HARDLY THINK THE PUBLICITY WOULD BE GOOD FOR .
HORACE, MAYBE WE'D BETTER NOT...


IT'S ALL SET, THEN! NOW, SIR..IF YOU'LL JUST RUN OUT INTO THE DINING ROOM AND GET SOME SILVER THE ENGAGED COUPLE EXAMINING THE TABLEWARE GIVEN TO THE BRIDE BY THE GROOMS RICH FAMILY, YOU KNOW! AND MADAME, WE MAY WANT TO USE SOME OF THE OTHER ROOMS PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER CHECK...?
YES, OF COURSE! I'LL SEE THAT EVERYTHING IS IN PERFECT ORDER!
YES YES, GOOD IDEA! I'LL DO THAT!
OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE!
AND NOW FOR THE BRIDE! COME HERE, BABS!
NO! OH, I KNEW IT WAS SOME KIND OF TRICK! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
BABS, DARLING, LISTEN! I LOVE YOU I HAD TO SEE YOU SOMEHOW! YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU AND YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T MARRY THAT...HORACE! LOOK INTO MY EYES, BABS AND TRY TO TELL ME YOU DON'T LOVE ME!
NO! NOW GET AWAY FROM ME! DON'T TOUCH
TIME FOR ME TO GET BACK IN THE PICTURE! THERE'S ONE OF MY ARROWS IN BAB'S HEART RIGHT NOW BUT A DOUBLE DOSE NEVER HURT ANYONE!
BULLSEYE!
OHHHH! OH YES, TIM! I LOVE Y MMMMMM!
BARBARA! I SAY NOW.
BARBARA! HOW COULD YOU?
EXACTLY WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
DON'T BE STUPID, HORACE ..IT MEANS YOU'RE OUT BABS IS IN LOVE WITH ME!
I'M SORRY, HORACE ...BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE!
HONEY, I'VE GOT TO RUN. BUT LISTEN... LET'S HAVE AN ENGAGEMENT PARTY TONIGHT. JUST YOU AND ME, ALONE! I'LL GET A TABLE AT THE CLOVER CLUB AND YOU MEET ME THERE!
ALRIGHT! BUT IF YOU'RE LATE AGAIN... OR IF I HEAR ONE WORD ABOUT THAT SHERRY CREATURE I'LL THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT I'LL DO!
5

WELL, I FIGURED THAT WAS THAT. ALL TIED UP IN A NEAT PINK BOW BUT YOU'D BE SUPRISED HOW I LOVE LOVERS SO I DECIDED TO PEEK IN AT THE CLOVER CLUB THAT NIGHT MYSELF BOY WAS I GLAD I DID BEFORE THE NIGHT WAS OVER!
BROTHER, LOOK AT HIM! FLOWERS CHECK NG H.S WATCH . HE'S REALLY IN LOVE! GUESS BABS WILL BE ALONG IN A WHOOPS! THE ENEMY IS IN SIGHT!
TIM! WHY, SWEETIE, HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU'D FIND ME HERE? AND THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS! FOR ME?
SHERRY! OH, MY ACH NG BACK! LOOK, SHERRY, RUN ALONG AND
AND HERE COMES BABS! WOOWW! WELL, I'VE PUT TOO MUCH WORK INTO THIS TO SEE IT BUST UP NOW! DON'T USUALLY TAKE SUCH DRASTIC METHODS BUT HERE GOES!
SHERRY, GO AWAY SOMEPLACE!
THERE YOU ARE, T M! I'M SORRY, I'M OOHHH!
OH, TIMMY DEAR YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE MAD!
LISTEN TIM, OLD BOY! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS, JUST SAY THE FIRST WORDS THAT COME INTO YOUR HEAD! DON'T WORRY . . I'LL PUT THEM THERE!
ABRACADABRA AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING!
WEEELLL!
SOMEONE YOU KNOW, TIM DARLING!?
BABS, I CAN EXPLAIN! SHERRY ISN'T WITH ME. SHE'S WITH
I'M BACK AGAIN, SHERRY!
THE NAME'S DANNY, TIM! DANNY!
SHE'S WITH . THIS.. DANNY THAT'S IT! SURE! WITH DANNY!
WHY, I DON'T. OHH! I...I MEAN, YOU...HELLOOOOO!
BABS, THIS IS DANNY DANNY .
DANNY CUE, MISS CRAWFORD WE'VE MET BEFORE BUT YOU'LL EXCUSE US WON'T YOU? SHERRY WANTS TO DANCE
I DO? I.. I MEAN SURE! ANYTHING YOU SAY, DANNY!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, HONEY I KNOW A MUCH BETTER PLACE FOR YOU!
YES LET'S GO IF YOU SAY SO!
TIM, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE ANYONE CAN SEE SHERRY'S CRAZY ABOUT THAT YOUNG MAN .. I GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU AND HER
HUH? OH, SURE SURE!
6

AND THEN I PULLED THE DIRTIEST TRICK OF THE EVENING BUT. WELL, SHERRY HAD IT COMING FOR BEING SUCH A FLIRT!
SST! HEY, DRIVER! THIS POOR GIRL IS...WELL, A LITTLE CONFUSED, GET IT!? TAKE HER FOR A LONG RIDE AROUND. THE PARK, NO MATTER WHAT SHE SAYS!
WHERE ARE WE GOING, DANNY?
I GET IT, PAL!
CAB
OH, DANNY! YOU'RE SO HANDSOME AND TALL!
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND REST, SWEET! OKAY, DRIVER, TAKE IT AWAY!
YOU HAVE SUCH BIG, BROAD SHOULDERS...? HEY! WHAT IN THE ...?
WELL, THAT'S DONE! TIME FOR ME TO RUN ALONG! TA, TA, SHERRY!
HE'S GONE! HE DISSAPEARED! LET ME OUT OF HERE! LET ME OUT, QUICK...THIS CAB IS HAUNTED!
EASY, LADY, EASY! WERE GOING FOR A NICE, LOOONG RIDE IN THE PARK!
CAB
I WENT BACK TO THE CLOVER CLUB FOR ONE MORE PEEK AT MY PATIENTS...
...AND WE'LL BE MARRIED JUST AS SOON AS I CAN GET THE LICENSE, DARLING!
OH, TIM, WON'T IT BE PERFECTLY WONDERFUL?
UH-HUH! NO NEED TO WASTE ANY MORE ARROWS ON THEM!
YAAAHHOOOO! DID IT AGAIN, AND DO I FEEL GREAT! WELL, FOLKS... I'LL BE BACK NEXT ISSUE WITH ANOTHER STORY TO TELL MEANTIME, PERHAPS I'LL BE SEEING YOU.. PERSONALLY!

THE LIGHTS OF BROADWAY

IT HAS often been said that there is a broken heart for every light on Broadway. It could also be said that there is a broken Light for every heart on Broadway. The Lights were always broke. They never had a dime. Harry Light was a budding playwright, who never seemed to get into bloom. His wife, Martha, was an actor's agent who specialized in animal acts. But one day last summer—

Harry bounded into the lobby of their small hotel, located in the West Forties. As he moved rapidly toward the elevator the manager called softly:

"COME HERE, LIGHT—YOU BUM."

Harry skidded to a stop. He grinned foolishly, and approached "Old Beetlepus." Martha was responsible for that name.

"Yes, Mr. Whipple—did you call me?"

Mr. Whipple scowled. "I wasn't calling Chloe," he replied. "Do you know what your bill amounts to by now?"

Harry nearly swallowed his adam's apple.

"Let me guess," he said. "About—er—fifty, maybe?"

"Fifty-two fifty," roared Mr. Whipple. "This is Wednesday. You have until Saturday to pay up. If you don't, I'll stick a plug so far in your lock it will bore a hole in the opposite wall."

"You'll have it by Saturday," said Harry. "Every dime."

"I don't want it in dimes. I want it in folding money."

Harry tried to smile. One look at Mr. Whipple's rock-like face and he nearly passed out.

"I'm sure I've made a sale this time," he said. "Some producer is gonna give me a five-hundred-dollar check as option on my new play. This will be either today or tomorrow. Pretty good news, ain't it?"

Mr. Whipple's expression did not change.

"A lot of suckers in town, aren't there?" he remarked. "Left over from the World's Fair, I guess."

"This is really a swell play," said Harry. "The best I've ever done."

"That don't say much."

Harry stopped. He looked at the hotel manager.

"Mind if I ask you a question, Mr. Whipple?"

"What?"

"Are you breakin' in that puss for a new horror movie?"

MR. WHIPPLE nearly swallowed his uppers. Before he could recover his composure Harry was in the elevator on his way to the fourth floor. He put his key in the lock of No. 405 and entered. His wife was sitting near the window. She was reading a copy of The Police Gazette.

"Hiya, Harry," she greeted him. "What's new?"

He tossed his hat onto the bed. Martha stared at him.

"Has Old Bettlepuss been after you again?" she asked.

"After me? He's been over me like a tent. Same old score. He don't change his tune any."

Martha took hold of her husband's hand.

"Things are always darkest just before the dawn," she said sweetly.

"Nuts to that poetry stuff," said Harry. "If we don't raise that dough by Saturday we'll be in a place that really IS dark. And I don't mean the balcony of the Strand."

"No," said Martha. "You mean the clink."

"The same—but I think I see a silver lining."

"What?" said Martha. "Another one?"

* * * * *

SHE WALKED to her dresser and picked up a hand mirror. She looked at her hair.

"Relax," said Harry. "I wasn't talking about your wig. I mean I think I finally sold my play."

Martha nearly dropped the mirror.

"Huh?" she said. "Which one?"

"The three-act murder mystery."

Martha had to sit down again. She felt weak in the knees.

"You don't mean Edgar Smith, the producer you went to see this morning?"

Harry Light grinned that boyish grin of his.

"The same," he replied. "Smith told me he'll come up this afternoon and talk it over. He might even bring a five-hundred-dollar check with him. How does that sound?"

Martha leaned back in her chair.

"Get me a glass of water," she said. "I feel faint."

Harry started to pace the floor. He didn't have much room in which to move. About three steps in each direction and he ran into a wall. Still, it was home. Even if the mice DID need tail-lights to keep from running into each other. The rent was four dollars a week. This included running water. It ran from the sink, and it ran from the ceiling.

"He read the play," said Harry. "And he's gonna read it again just to make sure he likes it."

"Suppose it makes him sick?"

"He's got a strong stomach— HEY—whatya mean sick? That's my best play."

Martha smiled at her excitable husband. "I

know, honey," she said. "But for five hundred dollars won't he want something better than your best?"

Harry collided with the door. "There's nothing better than my best," he shouted. "I can write circles around all these other bums."

"I didn't know there were any OTHER bums on Broadway."

Harry collided with a chair. "This is our big chance," he said. "When Smith gets up here I'll tell him I'm a world beater, a genius. Tell him our opening night will be so terrific, Shakespeare will come from his grave to shake the hand of Harry Light."

"When he goes back I hope he don't drag you with him."

Harry collided with the dresser. "Another one of your wise cracks and I'll be walking out the window," he said. "I'm not bringing this guy up here for the laughs. I'm bringing him up to make a sale. For the love of Mike, sugar, don't queer it—or I'll be back selling socks in the Five and Dime."

* * * * *

MARTHA walked to her husband's side and kissed him on the cheek. "You're a great guy, Harry," she said. "And I'm behind you all the way."

"Get in front of me in case this bum throws the script at me."

The telephone rang. Harry nearly jumped out of his pants. He picked up the receiver.

"Hello? — Who? — Mr. Smith? — Sure—send him right up." He banged the receiver back on the hook.

"He's coming up. Hold your breath, angel. Maybe we'll be eating strawberries and cream before long."

A few moments later a short, baldish man was admitted to No. 405. He was carrying a briefcase.

"Have a chair, Mr. Smith," said Harry.

"I don't need a chair," replied Mr. Smith. "I need a gas-mask."

Harry's face fell a foot.

"Huh?"

Mr. Smith sat down.

"Somebody is cooking cabbage down the hall," he replied. "It nearly gagged me."

Harry and Martha enjoyed a hearty laugh.

"What's so funny?" asked Mr. Smith.

"When you said gas-mask," answered Martha, "Harry thought you meant his play."

"A gas-mask wouldn't help me there," said Mr. Smith. "I'd have to be dead."

Harry nearly choked. Martha's knees shook. She had to grab the door-knob to keep herself from falling to the floor.

"Is it that bad?" asked the budding playwright.

* * * * *

THE PRODUCER reached into his brief-case and brought out Harry's play

"This play," said Mr. Smith, looking at Harry sharply, "is so lousy I had to dust the pages with DDT before I could read it."

Harry sat on the edge of the bed. He was stunned Poor Martha was on the verge of tears. Mr. Smith looked from one to the other.

"But I'll take an option on it," he continued, "for five hundred dollars."

The Lights jerked their heads up, and stared in astonishment at their visitor. Harry was the first to recover his voice.

"Do you mean it?" he asked.

Mr Smith nodded his naked skull.

"Yes," he said. "I have the check with me. As bad as this play is in its present form, it's got possibilities. I'm calling in another playwright to help you polish it." He reached into his well-filled wallet and extracted a five-hundred-dollar check.

"Here you are," he said. "Use it wisely. Your kisser may have more wrinkles than a prune before this play goes on."

Harry snatched the check from the outstretched hand.

"Give me back my arm," said Mr. Smith. "I might need it when I start selling apples on Broadway."

* * * * *

MARTHA leaped across the tiny room and planted a resounding kiss on the top of Mr. Smith's bald pate. She was overcome with happiness.

"Mr. Smith," she said, "you're a prince."

"Prince? Is that a new name for sucker?"

Harry leaped up from the bed.

"We gotta celebrate," he shouted. "After we settle our bill in this insect nest. Will you join us, Mr. Smith? Dinner and a show, maybe—huh?"

Mr. Smith shook his head. At the same time he replaced his hat upon it and rose from his chair.

"No, thank you," he said. "I'm taking Mrs. Smith to a flea circus."

And with that he left.

Harry took his wife in his arms.

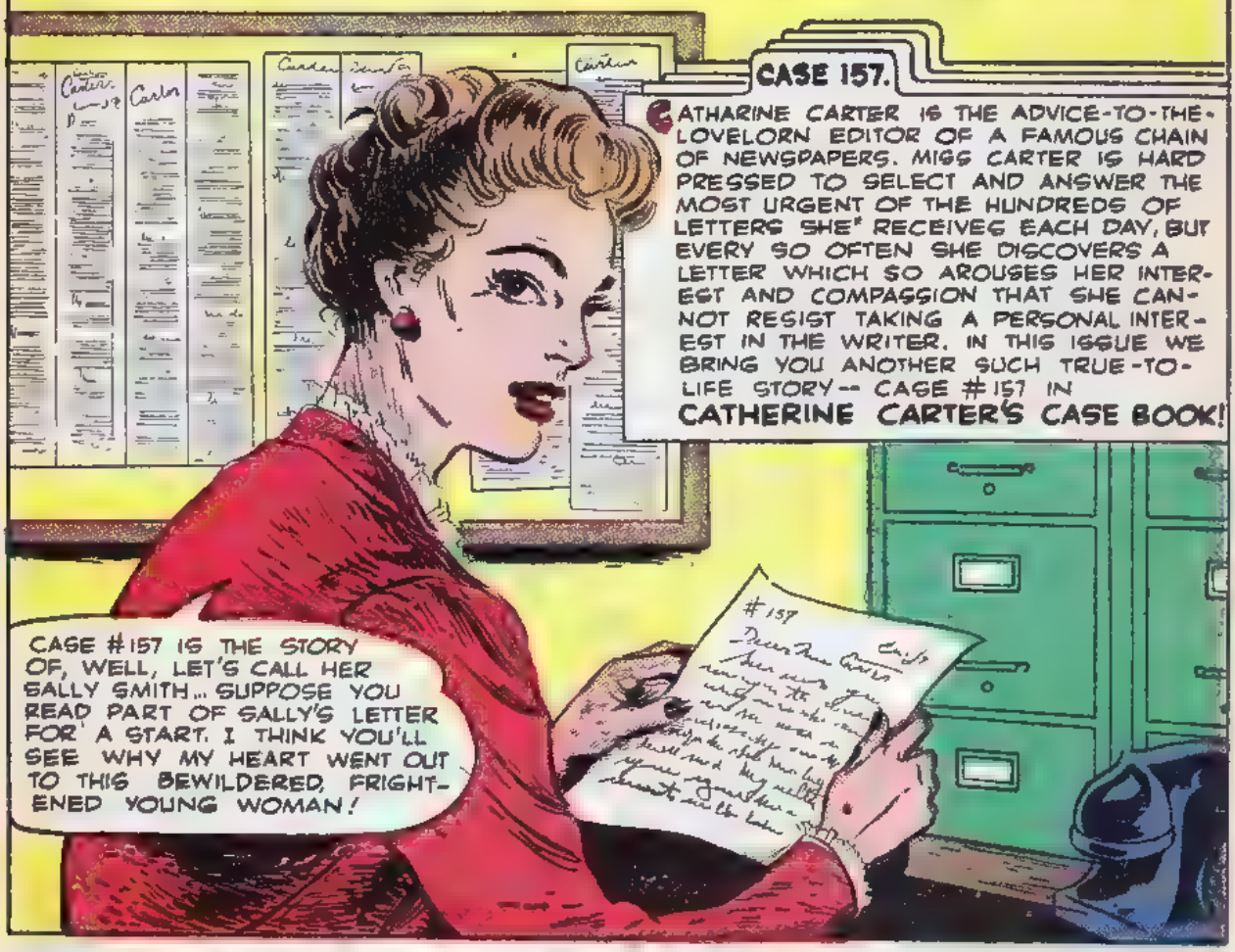
"Honey," he said, "we're set—like two diamonds in a wedding ring."

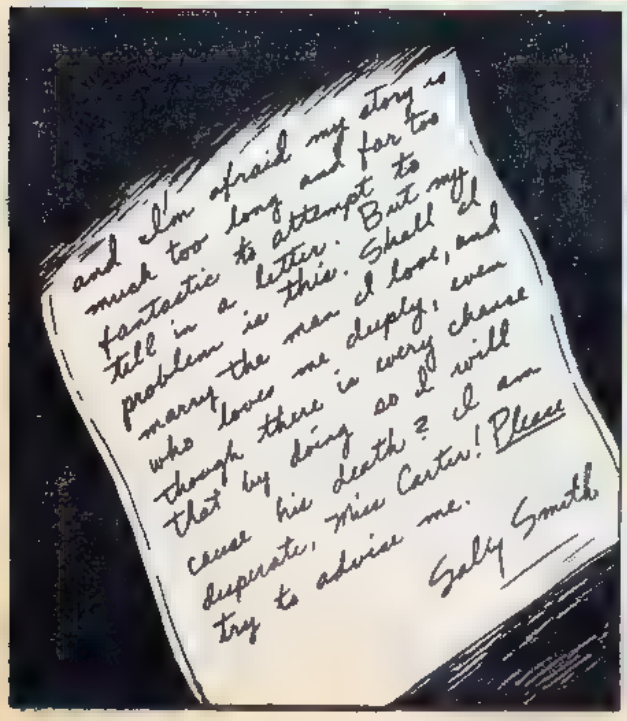
He kissed her. "Sugar, I adore you. You bring me luck."

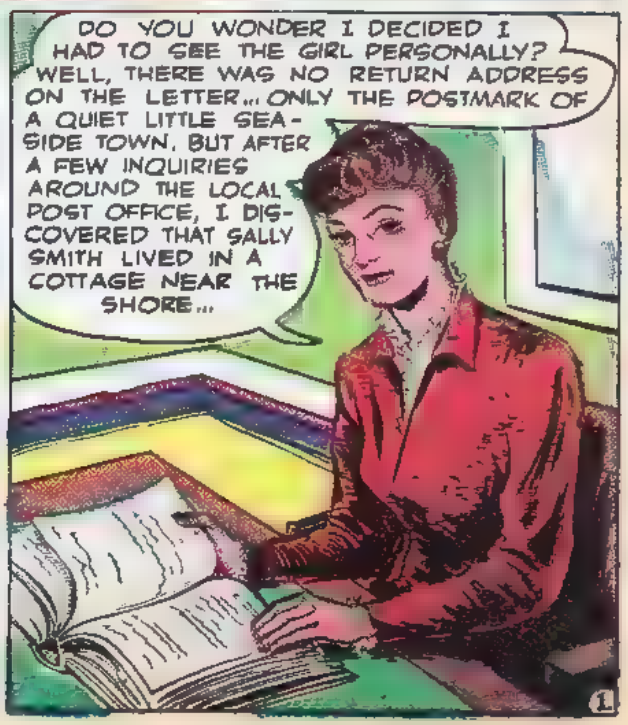
And what do you suppose happened then? Why, the Lights went out, of course.

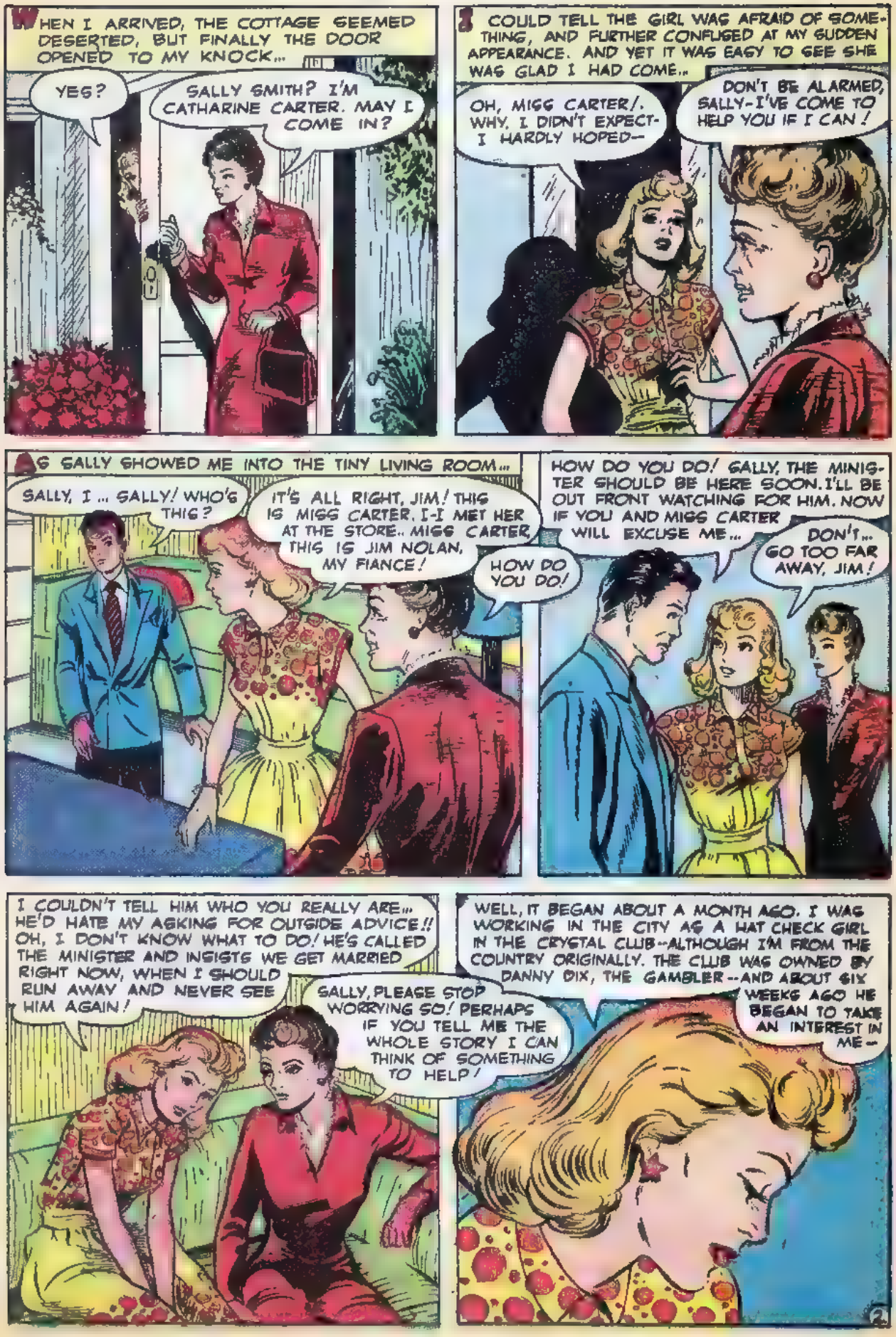
THE END

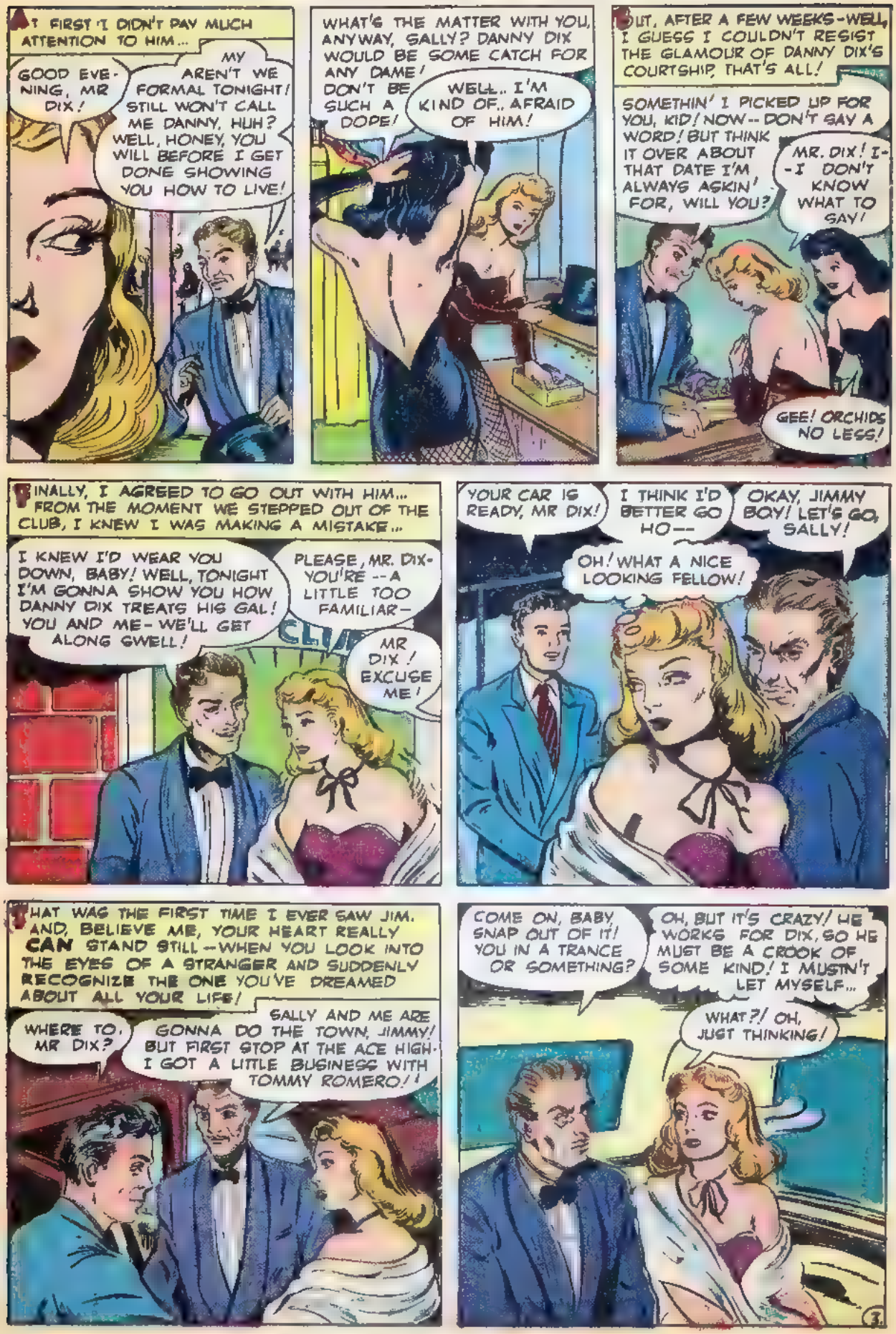
CARTER'S CASE BOOK

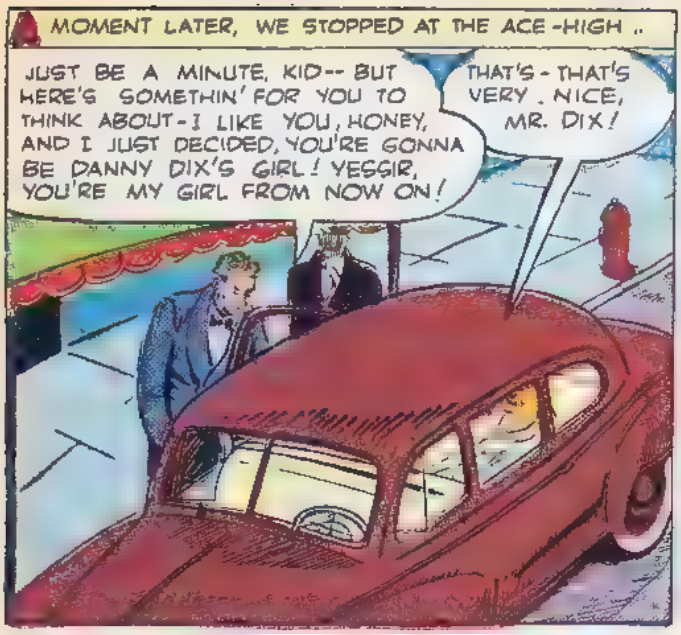

CASE 157.
CATHARINE CARTER IS THE ADVICE-TO-THE-LOVELORN EDITOR OF A FAMOUS CHAIN OF NEWSPAPERS. MISS CARTER IS HARD PRESSED TO SELECT AND ANSWER THE MOST URGENT OF THE HUNDREDS OF LETTERS SHE RECEIVES EACH DAY; BUT EVERY SO OFTEN SHE DISCOVERS A LETTER WHICH SO AROUSES HER INTEREST AND COMPASSION THAT SHE CANNOT RESIST TAKING A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE WRITER. IN THIS ISSUE WE BRING YOU ANOTHER SUCH TRUE-TO-LIFE STORY -- CASE #157 IN CATHERINE CARTER'S CASE BOOK!
CASE #157 IS THE STORY OF, WELL, LET'S CALL HER SALLY SMITH... SUPPOSE YOU READ PART OF SALLY'S LETTER FOR A START. I THINK YOU'LL SEE WHY MY HEART WENT OUT TO THIS BEWILDERED, FRIGHTENED YOUNG WOMAN!

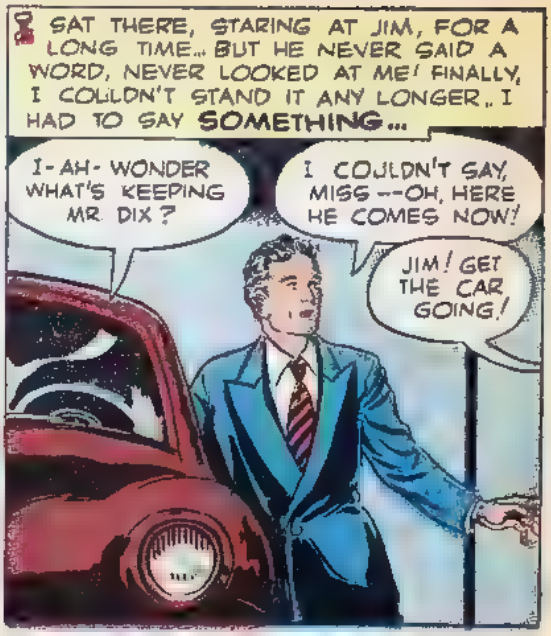

and I'm afraid my story is much too long and far too fantastic to attempt to tell in a letter. But my problem is this. Shall I marry the man I love, and who loves me deeply, even though there is very chance that by doing so I will cause his death? I am desperate, Miss Carter! Please try to advise me.
Sally Smith

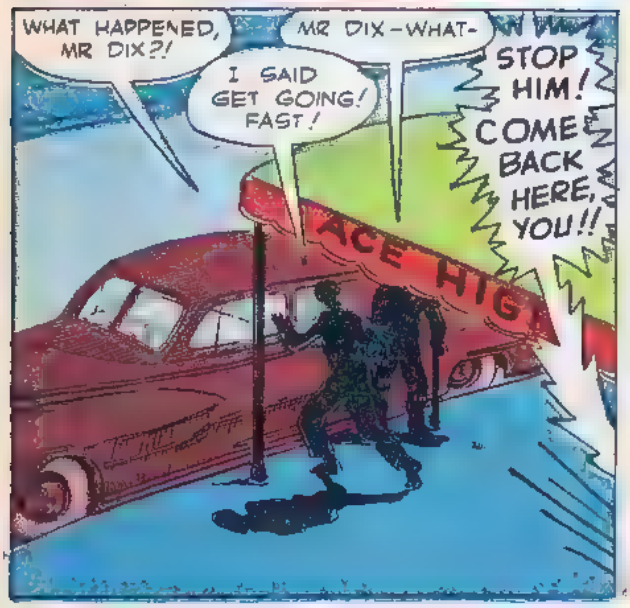

DO YOU WONDER I DECIDED I HAD TO SEE THE GIRL PERSONALLY? WELL, THERE WAS NO RETURN ADDRESS ON THE LETTER... ONLY THE POSTMARK OF A QUIET LITTLE SEASIDE TOWN. BUT AFTER A FEW INQUIRIES AROUND THE LOCAL POST OFFICE, I DISCOVERED THAT SALLY SMITH LIVED IN A COTTAGE NEAR THE SHORE...

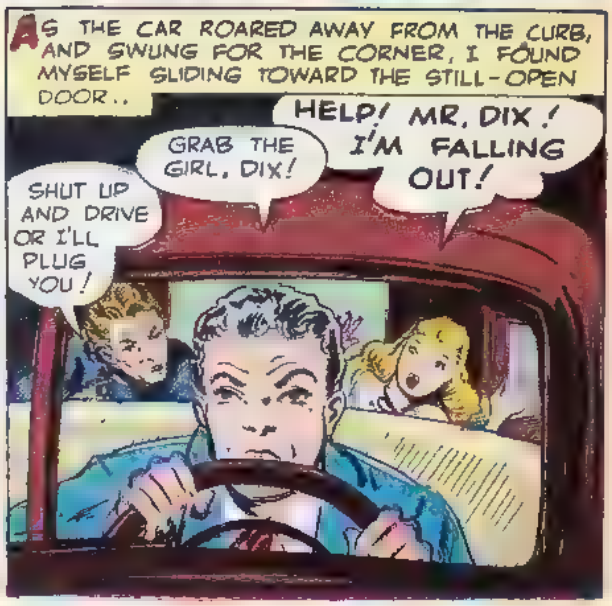

WHEN I ARRIVED, THE COTTAGE SEEMED DESERTED, BUT FINALLY THE DOOR OPENED TO MY KNOCK...
YES?
SALLY SMITH? I'M CATHARINE CARTER. MAY I COME IN?
I COULD TELL THE GIRL WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING, AND FURTHER CONFUSED AT MY SUDDEN APPEARANCE. AND YET IT WAS EASY TO SEE SHE WAS GLAD I HAD COME..
OH, MIGG CARTER!. WHY, I DIDN'T EXPECT- I HARDLY HOPED--
DON'T BE ALARMED, SALLY-I'VE COME TO HELP YOU IF I CAN!
AS SALLY SHOWED ME INTO THE TINY LIVING ROOM...
SALLY, I ... SALLY! WHO'S THIG?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JIM! THIS IS MIGG CARTER. I-I MET HER AT THE STORE.. MIGG CARTER, THIS IS JIM NOLAN, MY FIANCE!
HOW DO YOU DO!
HOW DO YOU DO! SALLY, THE MINISTER SHOULD BE HERE SOON. I'LL BE OUT FRONT WATCHING FOR HIM. NOW IF YOU AND MIGG CARTER WILL EXCUSE ME...
DON'T... GO TOO FAR AWAY, JIM!
I COULDN'T TELL HIM WHO YOU REALLY ARE... HE'D HATE MY ASKING FOR OUTSIDE ADVICE!! OH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! HE'S CALLED THE MINISTER AND INSISTS WE GET MARRIED RIGHT NOW, WHEN I SHOULD RUN AWAY AND NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
SALLY, PLEASE STOP WORRYING SO! PERHAPS IF YOU TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING TO HELP!
WELL, IT BEGAN ABOUT A MONTH AGO. I WAS WORKING IN THE CITY AS A HAT CHECK GIRL IN THE CRYSTAL CLUB--ALTHOUGH I'M FROM THE COUNTRY ORIGINALLY. THE CLUB WAS OWNED BY DANNY DIX, THE GAMBLER--AND ABOUT SIX WEEKS AGO HE BEGAN TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN ME--
2

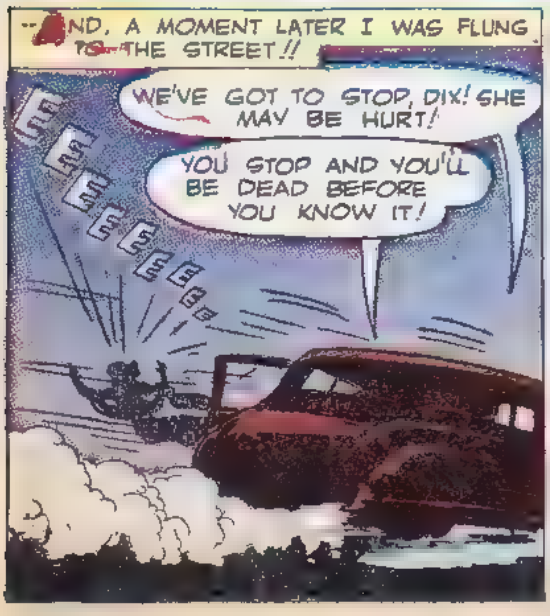

AT FIRST I DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO HIM...
GOOD EVENING, MR DIX!
MY, AREN'T WE FORMAL TONIGHT! STILL WON'T CALL ME DANNY, HUH? WELL, HONEY, YOU WILL BEFORE I GET DONE SHOWING YOU HOW TO LIVE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, ANYWAY, SALLY? DANNY DIX WOULD BE SOME CATCH FOR ANY DAME! DON'T BE SUCH A DOPE!
WELL.. I'M KIND OF.. AFRAID OF HIM!
BUT, AFTER A FEW WEEKS-WELL, I GUESS I COULDN'T RESIST THE GLAMOUR OF DANNY DIX'S COURTSHIP, THAT'S ALL!
SOMETHIN' I PICKED UP FOR YOU, KID! NOW-- DON'T SAY A WORD! BUT THINK IT OVER ABOUT THAT DATE I'M ALWAYS ASKIN' FOR, WILL YOU?
MR. DIX! I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
GEE! ORCHIDS NO LESS!
FINALLY, I AGREED TO GO OUT WITH HIM... FROM THE MOMENT WE STEPPED OUT OF THE CLUB, I KNEW I WAS MAKING A MISTAKE...
I KNEW I'D WEAR YOU DOWN, BABY! WELL, TONIGHT I'M GONNA SHOW YOU HOW DANNY DIX TREATS HIS GAL! YOU AND ME-WE'LL GET ALONG SWELL!
PLEASE, MR. DIX-YOU'RE --A LITTLE TOO FAMILIAR--
MR DIX! EXCUSE ME!
YOUR CAR IS READY, MR DIX!
I THINK I'D BETTER GO HO--
OKAY, JIMMY BOY! LET'S GO, SALLY!
OH! WHAT A NICE LOOKING FELLOW!
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW JIM. AND, BELIEVE ME, YOUR HEART REALLY CAN STAND STILL--WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE EYES OF A STRANGER AND SUDDENLY RECOGNIZE THE ONE YOU'VE DREAMED ABOUT ALL YOUR LIFE!
WHERE TO, MR DIX?
SALLY AND ME ARE GONNA DO THE TOWN, JIMMY! BUT FIRST STOP AT THE ACE HIGH- I GOT A LITTLE BUSINESS WITH TOMMY ROMERO!!
COME ON, BABY, SNAP OUT OF IT! YOU IN A TRANCE OR SOMETHING?
OH, BUT IT'S CRAZY! HE WORKS FOR DIX, SO HE MUST BE A CROOK OF SOME KIND! I MUSTN'T LET MYSELF...
WHAT?! OH, JUST THINKING!
3

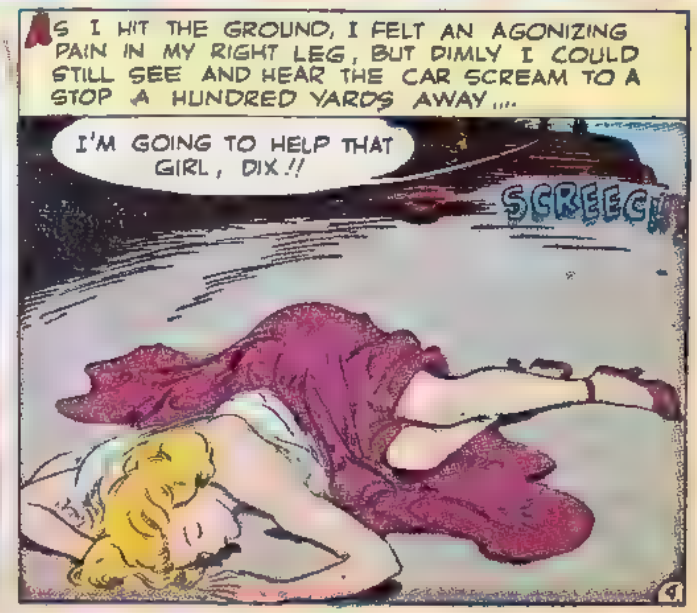

MOMENT LATER, WE STOPPED AT THE ACE-HIGH ..
JUST BE A MINUTE, KID-- BUT HERE'S SOMETHIN' FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT-I LIKE YOU, HONEY, AND I JUST DECIDED, YOU'RE GONNA BE DANNY DIX'S GIRL! YESSIR, YOU'RE MY GIRL FROM NOW ON!
THAT'S - THAT'S VERY . NICE, MR. DIX!


SAT THERE, STARING AT JIM, FOR A LONG TIME... BUT HE NEVER SAID A WORD, NEVER LOOKED AT ME! FINALLY, I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER.. I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING...
I-AH- WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING MR. DIX?
I COULDN'T SAY, MISS --OH, HERE HE COMES NOW!
JIM! GET THE CAR GOING!


WHAT HAPPENED, MR DIX?!
MR DIX-WHAT-
I SAID GET GOING! FAST!
STOP HIM! COME BACK HERE, YOU!!
ACE HIG


AS THE CAR ROARED AWAY FROM THE CURB, AND SWUNG FOR THE CORNER, I FOUND MYSELF SLIDING TOWARD THE STILL-OPEN DOOR..
HELP! MR. DIX! I'M FALLING OUT!
GRAB THE GIRL, DIX!
SHUT UP AND DRIVE OR I'LL PLUG YOU!

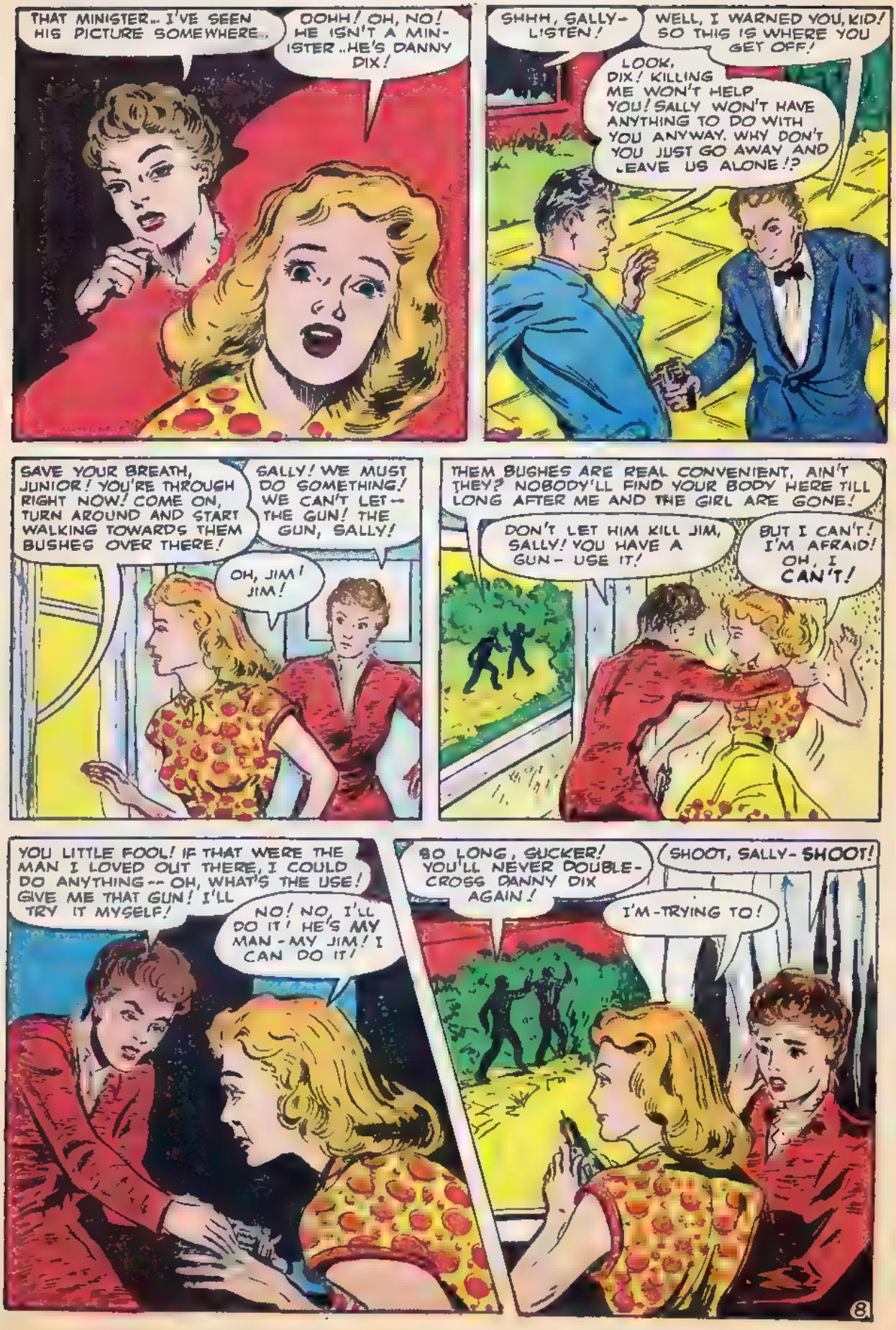

--AND, A MOMENT LATER I WAS FLUNG TO THE STREET!!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP, DIX! SHE MAY BE HURT!
YOU STOP AND YOU'LL BE DEAD BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!


AS I HIT THE GROUND, I FELT AN AGONIZING PAIN IN MY RIGHT LEG, BUT DIMLY I COULD STILL SEE AND HEAR THE CAR SCREAM TO A STOP A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY....
I'M GOING TO HELP THAT GIRL, DIX!!
SCREEC!

IN A PAIN-WRACKED DREAM, I SAW THE FRONT DOOR OF THE CAR FLY OPEN, AND JIM LEAP OUT--
COME BACK HERE, YOU--!
SALLY! SALLY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU DIRTY LITTLE PUNK! RUN OUT ON DANNY DIX, WILL YOU!
DUCK DOWN SALLY! HE'S SHOOTING AT US - OOHH!
WHEEEEEE!
JIM! YOU'RE HURT!
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS THE SOUND OF DANNY DIX'S THREATENING VOICE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF WAILING SIRENS, AS JIM HELD ME CLOSE! I GUESS I MUST HAVE FAINTED THEN--
I'LL GET YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO, PUNK! I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU!
WHEEEEEE!
DON'T WORRY, SALLY! HE'S - OUT OF BULLETS - AND THE POLICE ARE COMING!
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WOKE UP IN BED IN A HOSPITAL, AND THERE WAS JIM AT THE FOOT OF THE BED TALKING TO A DETECTIVE..
AND THAT'S ALL I KNOW, SIR! I RAN OUT INTO THE STREET TO HELP THIS YOUNG LADY, AND THE FELLOW SHOT ME IN THE ARM! DID YOU CATCH HIM?
NOT YET, BUT THERE'S A MURDER WARRANT OUT FOR HIM -- IF THIS YOUNG LADY CLEARS YOU, YOU CAN GO -
I - NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE!
SHE-SHE'S AWAKE NOW!
GOOD! NOW, MISS, JUST ANSWER YES OR NO - DO YOU KNOW THIS YOUNG MAN?
FOR A LONG MOMENT I STARED INTO JIM'S EYES, MY HEART WAGING A DESPERATE BATTLE WITH MY CONSCIENCE... AND AT LAST..
WELL, THAT CLEARS YOU, SON! WE'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU SOME MORE QUESTIONS LATER, MISS, BUT THAT'S ALL FOR RIGHT NOW!
...MY HEART WON!

AND THEN WE WERE ALONE, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, OR HOW TO ACT! I LOVED HIM, I KNEW THAT--BUT HE WAS A CROOK, PERHAPS EVEN A KILLER!
THANKS, SALLY-THANKS FOR NOT TURNING ME IN! THEY'D HAVE ARRESTED ME AS AN ACCESSORY TO THE CRIME!
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TRYING TO HELP ME-IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO! BUT--PERHAPS--YOU'D BETTER GO NOW!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, SALLY-BUT PLEASE GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN-I'M NOT A CROOK OR A HOODLUM, SALLY.. HONEST I'M NOT!
YOU WORK FOR DIX, DON'T YOU?
I'VE ONLY BEEN WORKING FOR HIM A FEW DAYS. YOU SEE, IT'S LIKE THIS.. I'M A MECHANIC, AND SOMETIMES I DRIVE RACING CARS. DIX DOES A LOT OF GAMBLING ON THE AUTO RACES, AND THAT'S WHERE I MET HIM..
BUT-WHY DID YOU START WORKING FOR HIM?
I WAS BROKE, SALLY! IT'S THE OFF SEASON FOR RACING, AND--WELL, HE WANTED SOMEONE WHO WAS A GOOD DRIVER, AND I TOOK THE JOB. OH, I KNEW HE WAS A GAMBLER, BUT I NEVER DREAMED HE WAS A KILLER! TONIGHT WAS THE FIRST TIME ANYTHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED TO ME! I'D NEVER AGREE TO DRIVE FOR A MURDERER--I--PLEASE BELIEVE ME, SALLY!
I-I DO BELIEVE YOU--JIM!
AND SUDDENLY, ALL THE PENT-UP LONGING FOR SOMEONE OF MY OWN BURST FROM INSIDE ME, AND I REACHED OUT MY ARMS FOR JIM!
OH, JIM! JIM! I WANTED YOU TO BE CLEAN AND DECENT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOU! I HATED THE THOUGHT OF YOUR BEING A CRIMINAL BECAUSE I-I---
SALLY, DO YOU MEAN IT? I FELT THE SAME WAY WHEN I SAW YOU! I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE ANOTHER OF DIX'S GIRLS! SALLY, I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU DARLING!
THEN JIM'S ARMS WERE AROUND ME, AND EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT! I'D NEVER KNOWN BEFORE WHAT ECSTACY IT COULD BE JUST TO HOLD SOMEONE CLOSE!
DARLING, WE'LL GO AWAY JUST AS SOON AS THIS IS OVER AND YOUR ANKLE HEALS! MY BROTHER HAS A LITTLE PLACE NEAR THE OCEAN, AND WE'LL GO THERE TO BE MARRIED!
THAT WILL BE PERFECT! JUST PERFECT, JIM!

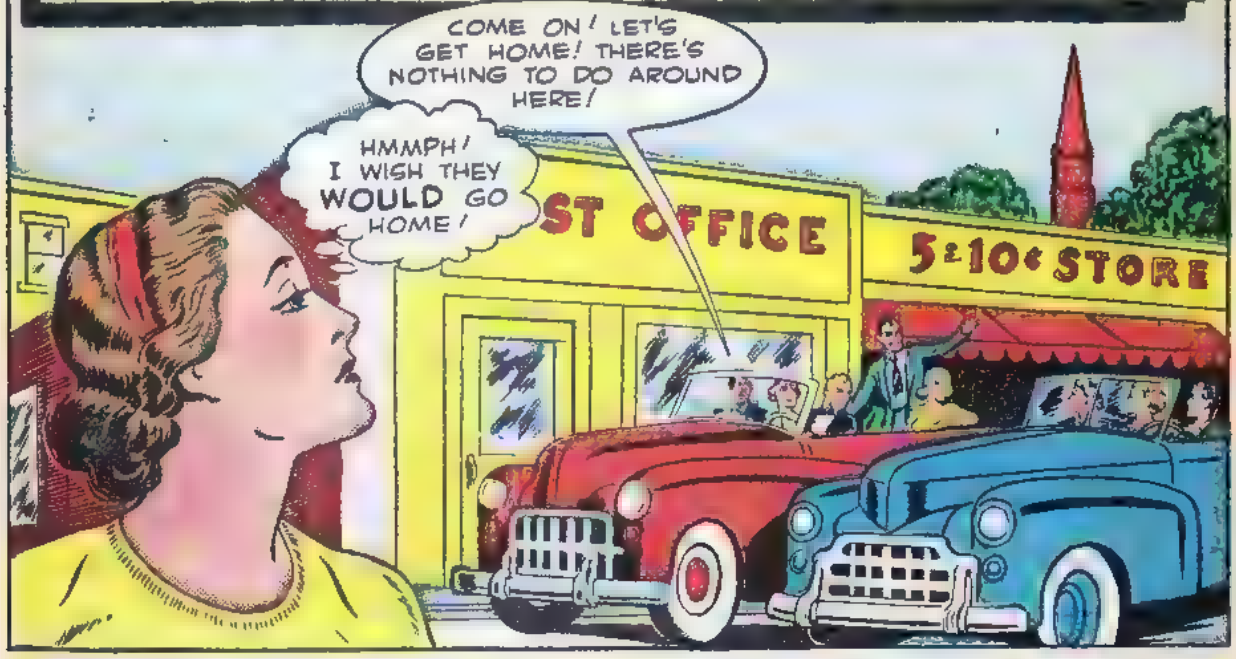
AND THAT'S THE STORY--UP TO NOW. JIM AND I ARRIVED HERE TWO DAYS AGO. JIM WANTED TO BE MARRIED RIGHT AWAY, BUT IT TOOK SOME TIME TO FIND A MINISTER WHO WOULD COME HERE, WAY OUT OF TOWN SO WE HAD TO WAIT UNTIL TODAY..
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DEAR! IF YOU'RE BEING MARRIED TODAY, YOUR TROUBLES ARE OVER..
BUT THEY AREN'T! THEY'RE JUST BEGINNING! LOOK - THIS CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE FOUND US, BUT HE DID!
WHAT IS IT? LET ME SEE..
SO YOU STOLE MY GIRL TOO, HEY PUNK! WELL, I'M GIVING YOU ONE CHANCE - I AM COMING FOR HER SOON, AND IF YOU SCRAM BEFORE I GET THERE I WILL FORGET ABOUT YOU. IF YOU ARE STILL THERE WHEN I COME - SAY YOUR PRAYERS -- AND DON'T CALL THE COPS EITHER OR THEY WILL GET YOU FOR HELPING TO KNOCK OFF ROMERO!
FROM DANNY DIX, OF COURSE!
YES - OH, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I TRIED TO GET JIM TO LEAVE, OR TO LET ME LEAVE, BUT HE SAYS HE WON'T RUN FROM ANY CROOK! HE INSISTS ON GOING THROUGH WITH THE WEDDING TODAY!
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO CONFESS EVERYTHING TO THE POLICE, DEAR?
JIM WON'T LET ME. HE SAYS HE'D RATHER DIE THAN GO TO JAIL! AND LOOK - HE HAS A GUN HERE, AND I'M DEATHLY AFRAID OF GUNS! I-I'M GOING CRAZY, JUST WAITING !!
A CAR JUST ARRIVED OUTSIDE. IT MUST BE THE MINISTER. DRY YOUR EYES, SALLY -- YOU MUST BE A PRETTY BRIDE, NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, I GUESS!
SALLY! COME HERE A MINUTE!
WHAT IS IT? ISN'T IT THE MINISTER? WHAT -- ?

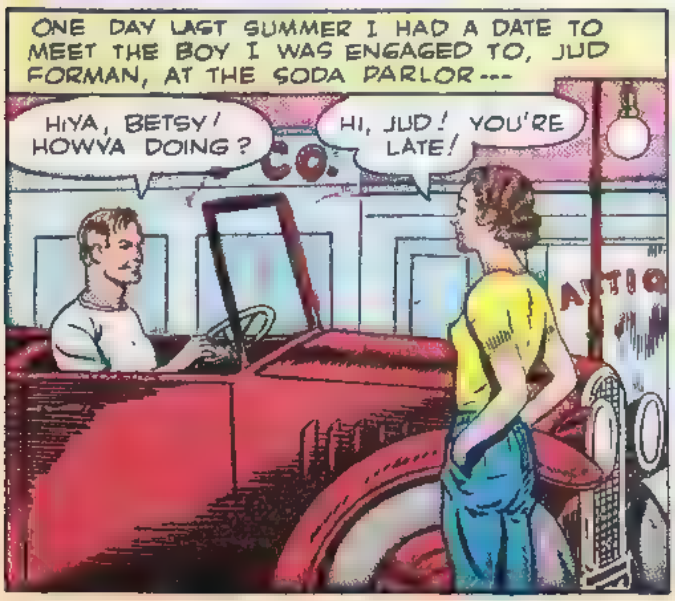

THAT MINISTER.. I'VE SEEN HIS PICTURE SOMEWHERE..
DOHH! OH, NO! HE ISN'T A MINISTER..HE'S DANNY DIX!
SHHH, SALLY- LISTEN!
WELL, I WARNED YOU, KID! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF!
LOOK, DIX! KILLING ME WON'T HELP YOU! SALLY WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYWAY. WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AWAY AND LEAVE US ALONE!?
SAVE YOUR BREATH, JUNIOR! YOU'RE THROUGH RIGHT NOW! COME ON, TURN AROUND AND START WALKING TOWARDS THEM BUSHES OVER THERE!
SALLY! WE MUST DO SOMETHING! WE CAN'T LET-- THE GUN! THE GUN, SALLY!
OH, JIM! JIM!
THEM BUSHES ARE REAL CONVENIENT, AIN'T THEY? NOBODY'LL FIND YOUR BODY HERE TILL LONG AFTER ME AND THE GIRL ARE GONE!
DON'T LET HIM KILL JIM, SALLY! YOU HAVE A GUN- USE IT!
BUT I CAN'T! I'M AFRAID! OH, I CAN'T!
YOU LITTLE FOOL! IF THAT WERE THE MAN I LOVED OUT THERE, I COULD DO ANYTHING -- OH, WHAT'S THE USE! GIVE ME THAT GUN! I'LL TRY IT MYSELF!
NO! NO, I'LL DO IT! HE'S MY MAN - MY JIM! I CAN DO IT!
SO LONG, SUCKER! YOU'LL NEVER DOUBLE-CROSS DANNY DIX AGAIN!
SHOOT, SALLY- SHOOT!
I'M-TRYING TO!

YOU MISSED, SALLY! TRY AGAIN!
WHAT TH'-? WHY, YOU LOUSY LITTLE--
SALLY! LOOK OUT!
I'LL KILL THE BOTH OF- OOHHHH!
YOU DID IT, SALLY!
YOU SAVED JIM, SALLY! GOOD GIRL! YOU-- LOOK OUT! DON'T FALL!
I DID? DID I SHOOT- OOOHHH!
SALLY! SALLY DARLING!
WELL, I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE NEXT HOUR OR SO WAS HECTIC! POLICE AND REPORTERS RUSHED IN AND OUT LIKE MADMEN. I FINALLY HAD THE CHANCE TO DRAW ONE OF THE DETECTIVES ASIDE, AND I TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY, WITH SALLY'S PERMISSION..
WELL, IF THE STORY CHECKS, MISS CARTER, I GUESS THINGS WON'T GO TOO BAD FOR THE YOUNG FELLOW--PROBABLY GET OFF WITH A SUSPENDED SENTENCE, WITH YOU VOUCHING FOR HIM!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I'LL BE IN COURT--
HEY, SARGE, THIS JOINT'S GETTIN' CROWDED--HERE COMES ANOTHER CAR!
A MINISTER! MAYBE HE THINKS WERE GIVIN' DIX A FUNERAL RIGHT NOW!
I-I SEEM TO HAVE COME TO THE WRONG PLACE! I-I BEG YOUR PARDON--
YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE, REVEREND! COME RIGHT IN! THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PEOPLE HERE WHO NEED YOUR HELP!
--I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
CONGRATULATIONS, CHILDREN! NOW EVERYTHING IS SETTLED!
ATTABOY, KID!
COME ON- KISS THE BRIDE!
AND EVERYTHING WAS SETTLED AT THAT.. JIM WAS GIVEN A WARNING BY THE JUDGE WHO TRIED HIM, AND SET FREE. HE AND SALLY HAVE A BUSY LITTLE GARAGE NOW, AND JIM HAS A CAR OF HIS OWN ENTERED IN THE RACES NEXT WEEK. SO THERE YOU HAVE IT--CASE #157! WELL, GOODBYE FOR NOW, BUT DON'T FORGET, I'LL BE BACK SOON WITH ANOTHER STORY FOR YOU FROM CATHARINE CARTER'S CASE BOOK!
Case Book
9

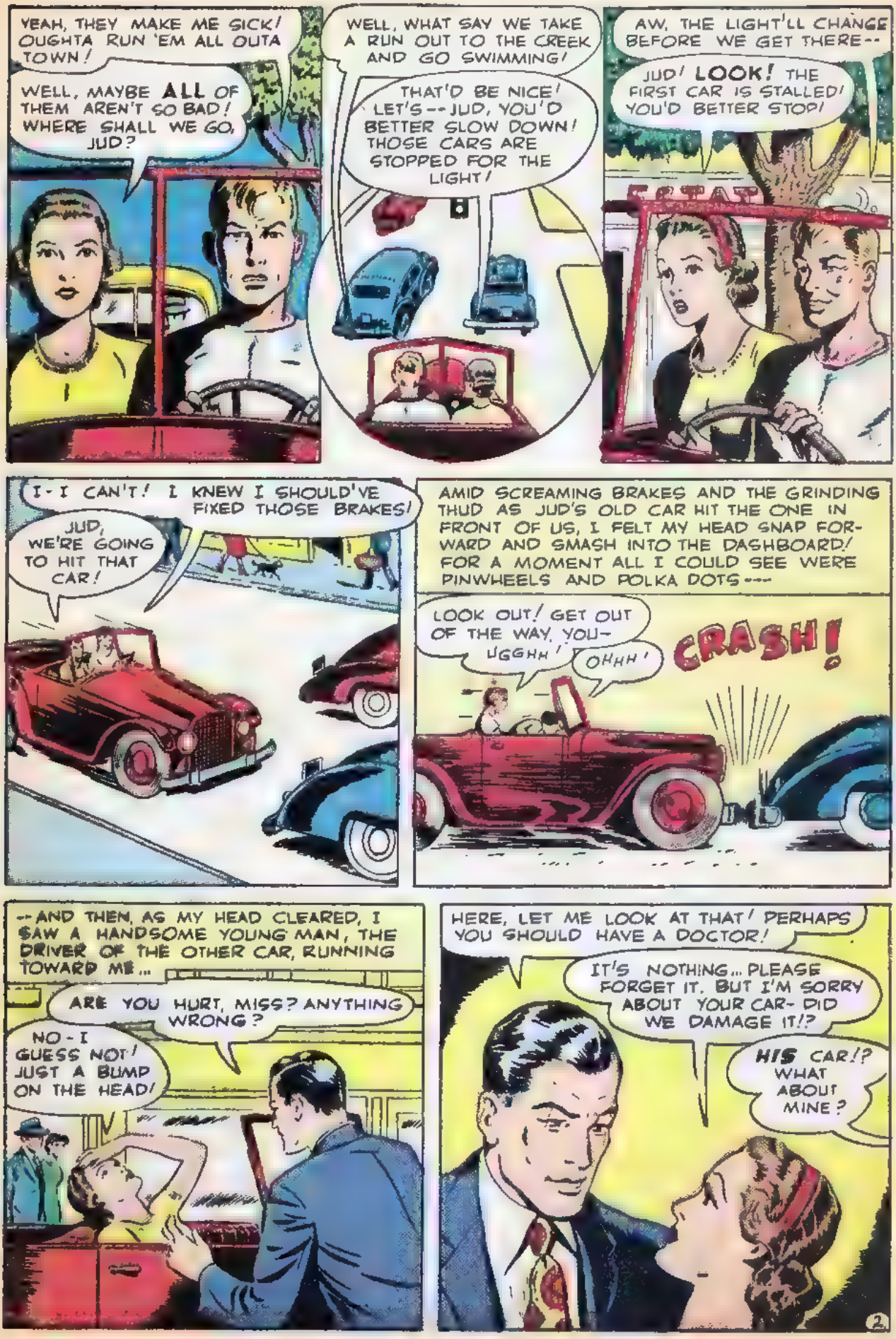
I was a SMALL TOWN SNOB

I SUPPOSE THE REAL BEGINNING OF MY STORY GOES BACK TO THE SUMMER THAT THE CITY PEOPLE DISCOVERED THE CHARM OF OUR LITTLE TOWN, AND BEGAN TO COME THERE FOR VACATIONS. I HAD NEVER MET ANY OF THEM, BUT I TOOK AN IMMEDIATE DISLIKE TO THE YOUNGER SET--I THOUGHT THEY WERE TOO LOUD, TOO WILD AND TOO WISE, AND ALL MY FRIENDS SEEMED TO AGREE WITH ME. I REALIZE NOW THAT MY DISLIKE WAS PROBABLY JEALOUSY--ENVY OF THEIR CARS, THEIR CLOTHES, THEIR MONEY. BUT IT TOOK THE SHOCK OF SEEING THE MAN I LOVED WALK OUT ON ME TO OPEN MY EYES!



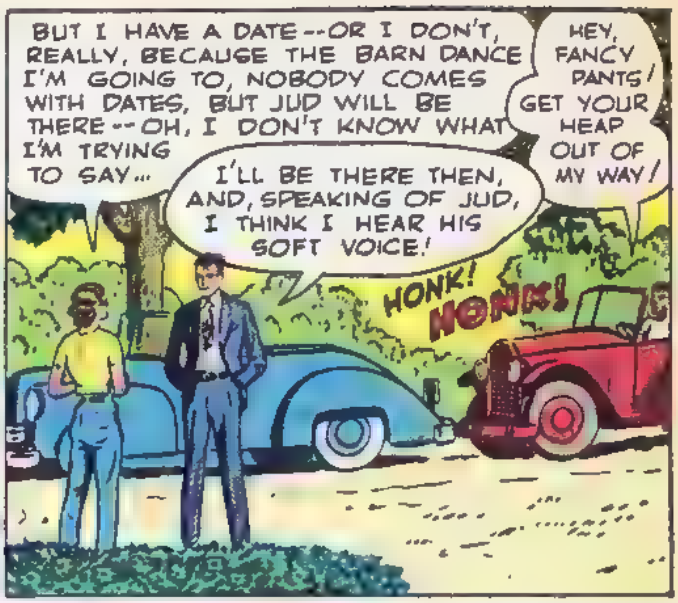

ONE DAY LAST SUMMER I HAD A DATE TO MEET THE BOY I WAS ENGAGED TO, JUD FORMAN, AT THE SODA PARLOR---
HIYA, BETSY! HOWYA DOING?
HI, JUD! YOU'RE LATE!

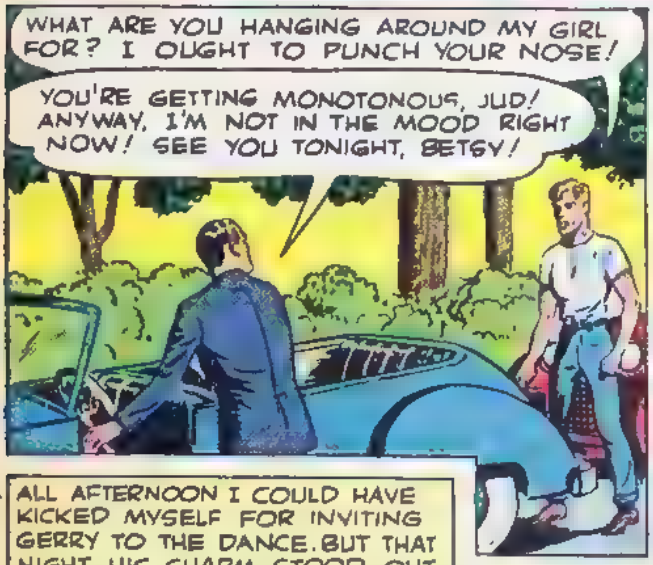
HAD TROUBLE WITH THE PUDDLE-JUMPER HERE!
I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE CITY SLICKERS MAKE FOOLS OF THEMSELVES. LOOK AT THAT- THERE GOES ANOTHER CRAZY BUNCH OF THEM!


YEAH, THEY MAKE ME SICK! OUGHTA RUN 'EM ALL OUTA TOWN!
WELL, MAYBE ALL OF THEM AREN'T SO BAD! WHERE SHALL WE GO, JUD?
WELL, WHAT SAY WE TAKE A RUN OUT TO THE CREEK AND GO SWIMMING!
THAT'D BE NICE! LET'S -- JUD, YOU'D BETTER SLOW DOWN! THOSE CARS ARE STOPPED FOR THE LIGHT!
AW, THE LIGHT'LL CHANGE BEFORE WE GET THERE--
JUD! LOOK! THE FIRST CAR IS STALLED! YOU'D BETTER STOP!
I-I CAN'T! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE FIXED THOSE BRAKES!
JUD, WE'RE GOING TO HIT THAT CAR!
AMID SCREAMING BRAKES AND THE GRINDING THUD AS JUD'S OLD CAR HIT THE ONE IN FRONT OF US, I FELT MY HEAD SNAP FORWARD AND SMASH INTO THE DASHBOARD! FOR A MOMENT ALL I COULD SEE WERE PINWHEELS AND POLKA DOTS---
LOOK OUT! GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU- UGGHH!
OHHH!
CRASH!
--AND THEN, AS MY HEAD CLEARED, I SAW A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN, THE DRIVER OF THE OTHER CAR, RUNNING TOWARD ME...
ARE YOU HURT, MISS? ANYTHING WRONG?
NO - I GUESS NOT! JUST A BUMP ON THE HEAD!
HERE, LET ME LOOK AT THAT! PERHAPS YOU SHOULD HAVE A DOCTOR!
IT'S NOTHING... PLEASE FORGET IT. BUT I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR CAR- DID WE DAMAGE IT!?
HIS CAR!? WHAT ABOUT MINE?
2

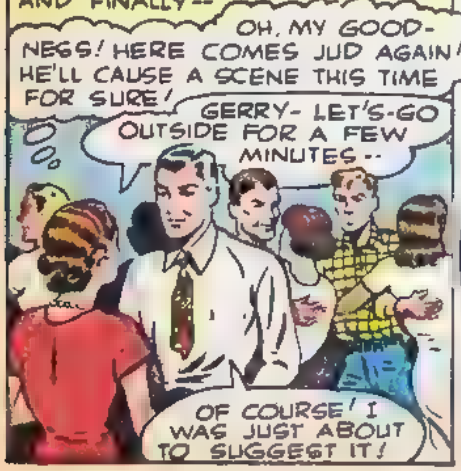
YOU OUGHT TO BE ARRESTED! WHY DIDN'T YOU MOVE ON WHEN THE LIGHT CHANGED? WHY, IF I WASN'T BANGED UP FROM THIS ACCIDENT, I'D PUNCH YOUR NOSE FOR YOU!
JUD! YOU KNOW IT WASN'T HIS FAULT-
NEVER MIND, MISS - HE'S JUST EXCITED - NOW IF YOU'LL GIVE ME YOUR NAMES AND ADDRESSES-
WHAT FOR? YOU WANT TO SUE OR SOMETHING?
OUR NAMES...
NO, MY CAR ISN'T DAMAGED BUT IT'S THE CORRECT THING TO DO IN CASE OF ANY ACCIDENT.. MY NAME IS GERALD MARSH.
GERALD! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!
OH, I SEE MY NAME IS BETSY BELDON -- MY FATHER HAS A FARM ON THREE MILE ROAD, AND THIS IS JUD FORMAN.. HE LIVES NEXT DOOR
THANK YOU! IF YOU WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME, I'M AT THE HOTEL!
GOODBYE, MISS BELDON - GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT!
FOOEY! SOME FANCY PANTS!
OH, JUD! BE QUIET! IT WAS YOUR FAULT AND YOU KNOW IT!
NEXT AFTERNOON, AS I WAS TENDING THE FLOWER GARDEN, I FOUND MYSELF THINKING OF GERALD MARSH -- AND ANNOYED AT MYSELF FOR DOING SO. WHAT IF HE WAS HANDSOME? JUST ANOTHER CITY SHARPIE, I KEPT TELLING MYSELF. AND I JUST ABOUT HAD ME CONVINCED, WHEN SUDDENLY...
HELLO, MISS BELDON.. HOW'S THE BUMP COMING ALONG?
OH, GERAL-! I MEAN, MR. MARSH! YOU SURPRISED ME!
GO AHEAD, CALL ME GERALD -- OR GERRY WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN BETTER. DO YOU MIND IF I CALL YOU BETSY? I BROUGHT YOU A BOX OF CANDY, BY WAY OF APOLOGY..
3

WHY, NO - I MEAN, THANK YOU! THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE, MR. -- I MEAN -
GERRY! IT'S AN EASY NAME TO REMEMBER. BUT I DIDN'T REALLY COME JUST TO BRING THE CANDY, BETSY - I CAME TO ASK YOU FOR A DATE TONIGHT!

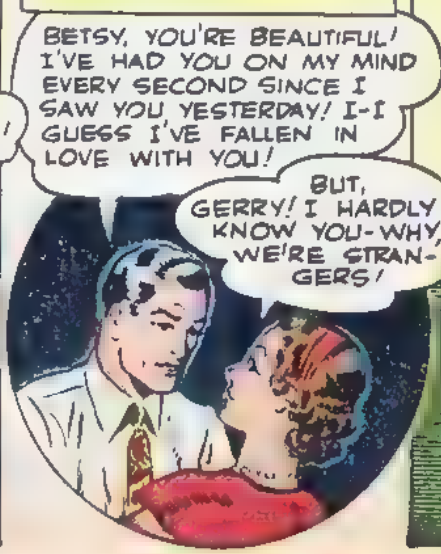

BUT I HAVE A DATE -- OR I DON'T, REALLY, BECAUSE THE BARN DANCE I'M GOING TO, NOBODY COMES WITH DATES, BUT JUD WILL BE THERE -- OH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY...
I'LL BE THERE THEN, AND, SPEAKING OF JUD, I THINK I HEAR HIS SOFT VOICE!
HEY, FANCY PANTS! GET YOUR HEAP OUT OF MY WAY!
HONK! HONK!


WHAT ARE YOU HANGING AROUND MY GIRL FOR? I OUGHT TO PUNCH YOUR NOSE!
YOU'RE GETTING MONOTONOUS, JUD! ANYWAY, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD RIGHT NOW! SEE YOU TONIGHT, BETSY!

ALL AFTERNOON I COULD HAVE KICKED MYSELF FOR INVITING GERRY TO THE DANCE. BUT THAT NIGHT HIS CHARM STOOD OUT LIKE A BRIGHT LIGHT AGAINST THE SULLEN BLACK MOOD THAT JUD WAS IN, AND I FELT MYSELF BEING DRAWN TOWARD GERRY AGAINST MY WILL.. BUT JUD HOVERED MENACINGLY IN THE BACKGROUND EVERY TIME WE DANCED OR CHATTED, AND FINALLY --

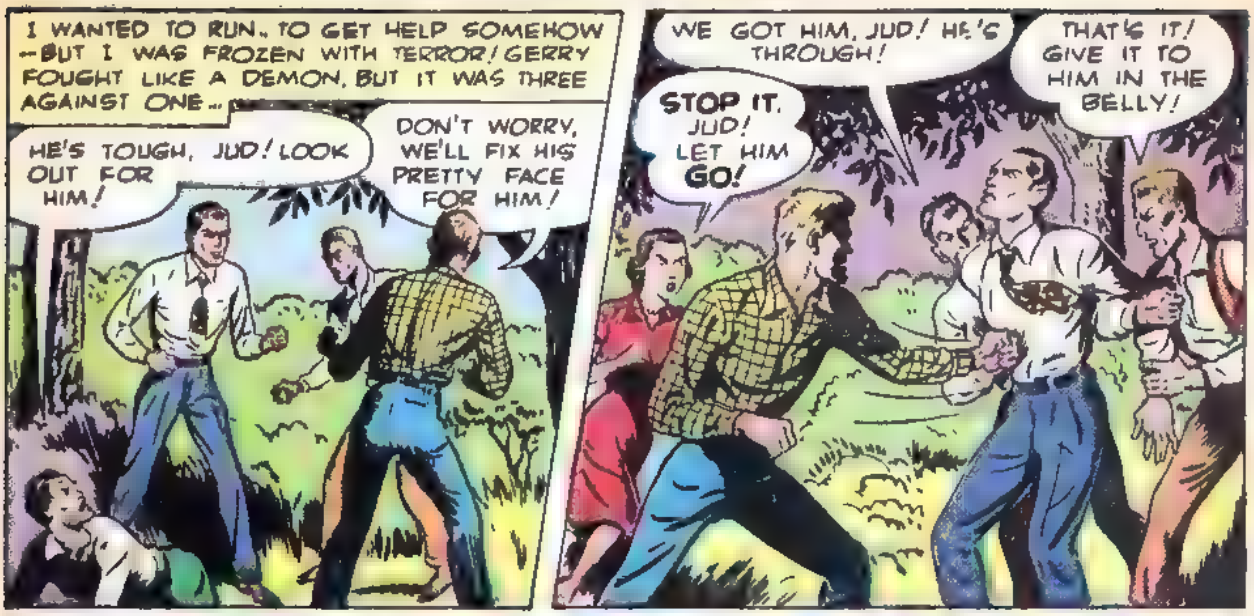

OH, MY GOODNESS! HERE COMES JUD AGAIN! HE'LL CAUSE A SCENE THIS TIME FOR SURE!
GERRY - LET'S GO OUTSIDE FOR A FEW MINUTES --
OF COURSE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SUGGEST IT!

AND THEN, AS WE TURNED A CORNER OF THE BARN -- I FELT GERRY'S ARMS SUDDENLY CLOSE AROUND ME!


BETSY, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! I'VE HAD YOU ON MY MIND EVERY SECOND SINCE I SAW YOU YESTERDAY! I - I GUESS I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU!
BUT, GERRY! I HARDLY KNOW YOU - WHY, WE'RE STRANGERS!

BUT, BEFORE I COULD SAY ANY MORE -- GERRY KISSED ME! OH, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THEN AND THERE WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME! MY HEAD WHIRLED AND MY HEART BEAT FASTER AND FASTER TILL I THOUGHT I'D EXPLODE!

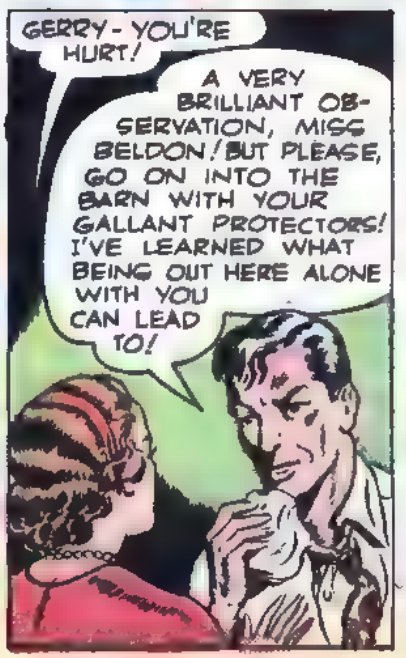
BUT SUDDENLY I HAD TO BREAK FREE OF HIS ARMS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS -- PROBABLY MY STUPID, COUNTRY-SNOB CONVICTIONS ABOUT CITY SLICKERS. ALL THE WILD STORIES I'D EVER HEARD ABOUT THE SMOOTH LIES THEY TOLD, THE DUMB COUNTRY GIRLS WHO FELL FOR THEM, SPRANG INTO MY MIND! OH, WHAT A LITTLE FOOL I WAS!
I DO LOVE YOU, BETSY! YOU MUST BELIEVE ME.. AFTER THAT KISS—! SAY YOU LOVE ME TOO, DARLING.. PLEASE SAY IT!
NO! YOU AREN'T FOOLING ME! LET ME GO BEFORE I SCREAM!
BETSY.. WHAT IS IT? I THOUGHT WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO COME OUT HERE WITH YOU THAT YOU LIKED ME! WHAT'S WRONG...?
LET GO OF ME, YOU SNEAK!! JUD! JUD! HELP!
I BROKE AWAY AND RAN BLINDLY INTO THE BARN -- STRAIGHT INTO JUD! AND, AS I RAN, I KNEW I WAS WRONG - I KNEW I WAS BEING A HYSTERICAL, IDIOTIC FOOL! BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO STOP!
BETSY, DID THAT WISE GUY MAKE A PASS AT YOU?! HE DID!! I CAN SEE IT! WELL, DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIX HIM!
HEY, CAL! JIMMY! COME ON!
NO, JUD! DON'T! IT WAS ALL MY FAULT— REALLY IT WAS!
BUT I COULDN'T STOP JUD! HE WAS LIKE -- LIKE A WOLF SCENTING BLOOD!
DON'T JUD! PLEASE LET HIM GO!
HEY YOU -- MARSH! COME BACK HERE, YOU YELLOW SKUNK!
SO YOU CALLED OUT THE DOGS, MISS BELDON! WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT...
NO! STOP IT, ALL OF YOU - STOP!
GET HIM, BOYS!
I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT.. A SATISFACTORY BRAWL FOR YOU... MISS BELDON!
OH NO! NO!


I WANTED TO RUN.. TO GET HELP SOMEHOW --BUT I WAS FROZEN WITH TERROR! GERRY FOUGHT LIKE A DEMON. BUT IT WAS THREE AGAINST ONE..
HE'S TOUGH, JUD! LOOK OUT FOR HIM!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIX HIS PRETTY FACE FOR HIM!
WE GOT HIM, JUD! HE'S THROUGH!
THAT'S IT! GIVE IT TO HIM IN THE BELLY!
STOP IT, JUD! LET HIM GO!

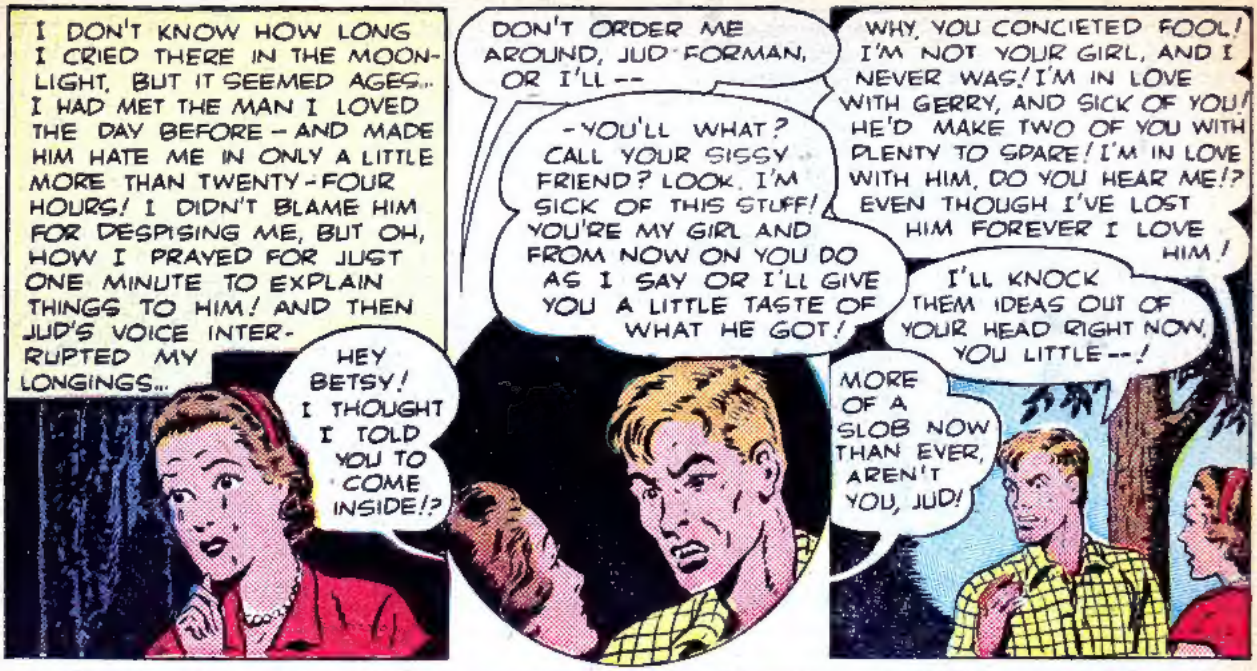
I TORE AT JUD'S ARMS AS HE BEAT GERRY UNMERCIFULLY, BUT IT WAS NO USE --JUD WAS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL! AND EVERY BLOW SENT ITS SMASHING IMPACT STRAIGHT INTO MY HEART!
GIVE 'IM SOME MORE, JUD! HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS!
MAYBE THIS -- WILL TEACH YOU -- TO STAY WHERE YOU BELONG!
STOP IT! PLEASE, PLEASE STOP!

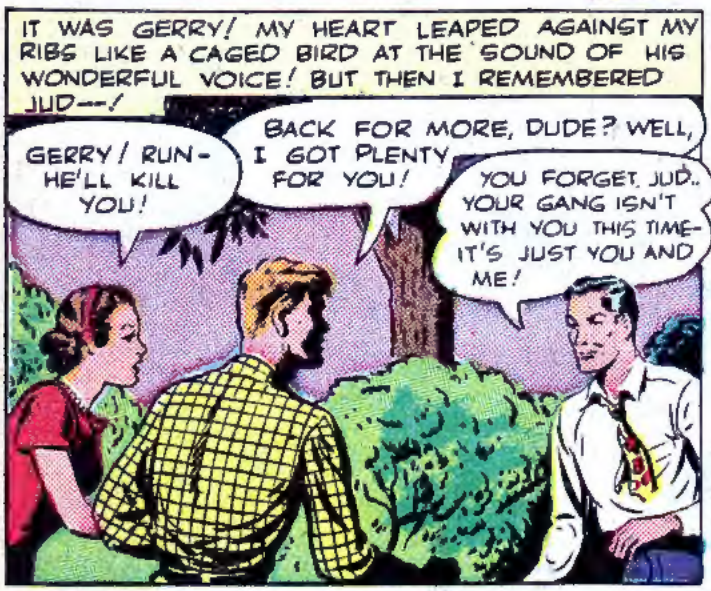
AND THEN I FELT MYSELF LOSING ALL CONTROL! I SCREAMED AT JUD LIKE A MAD ANIMAL UNTIL I MADE HIM AWARE OF ME!
JUD! STOP IT THIS INSTANT OR I'LL CALL THE POLICE! DO YOU HEAR ME!?
UH.. YEAH - I - OKAY BOYS - LET HIM GO!

I MEAN IT! I'LL CALL THE STATE TROOPERS! NOW YOU THREE GET BACK INTO THAT BARN RIGHT NOW!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL GIVE YOU ONE MINUTE.. TO SAY GOOD BYE TO YOUR FANCY FRIEND. THEN YOU COME ON INSIDE, HEAR?


GERRY - YOU'RE HURT!
A VERY BRILLIANT OBSERVATION, MISS BELDON! BUT PLEASE, GO ON INTO THE BARN WITH YOUR GALLANT PROTECTORS! I'VE LEARNED WHAT BEING OUT HERE ALONE WITH YOU CAN LEAD TO!

BUT GERRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO -- I'M SORRY!
IF YOU MUST APOLOGIZE, CALL ME SOME TIME! - I'M IN THE CITY DIRECTORY! I THINK I'LL STAY IN THE CITY TOO! AT LEAST I CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL THERE WITHOUT AROUSING THE LOCAL GESTAPO! SEE YOU AROUND, MISS BELDON!


I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CRIED THERE IN THE MOONLIGHT, BUT IT SEEMED AGES... I HAD MET THE MAN I LOVED THE DAY BEFORE - AND MADE HIM HATE ME IN ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! I DIDN'T BLAME HIM FOR DESPISING ME, BUT OH, HOW I PRAYED FOR JUST ONE MINUTE TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO HIM! AND THEN JUD'S VOICE INTERRUPTED MY LONGINGS...
HEY BETSY! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO COME INSIDE!?
DON'T ORDER ME AROUND, JUD FORMAN, OR I'LL --
-YOU'LL WHAT? CALL YOUR SISSY FRIEND? LOOK, I'M SICK OF THIS STUFF! YOU'RE MY GIRL AND FROM NOW ON YOU DO AS I SAY OR I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE TASTE OF WHAT HE GOT!
WHY, YOU CONCIETED FOOL! I'M NOT YOUR GIRL, AND I NEVER WAS! I'M IN LOVE WITH GERRY, AND SICK OF YOU! HE'D MAKE TWO OF YOU WITH PLENTY TO SPARE! I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM, DO YOU HEAR ME!? EVEN THOUGH I'VE LOST HIM FOREVER I LOVE HIM!
I'LL KNOCK THEM IDEAS OUT OF YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW, YOU LITTLE--!
MORE OF A SLOB NOW THAN EVER, AREN'T YOU, JUD!


IT WAS GERRY! MY HEART LEAPED AGAINST MY RIBS LIKE A CAGED BIRD AT THE SOUND OF HIS WONDERFUL VOICE! BUT THEN I REMEMBERED JUD--!
GERRY! RUN - HE'LL KILL YOU!
BACK FOR MORE, DUDE? WELL, I GOT PLENTY FOR YOU!
YOU FORGET, JUD.. YOUR GANG ISN'T WITH YOU THIS TIME - IT'S JUST YOU AND ME!

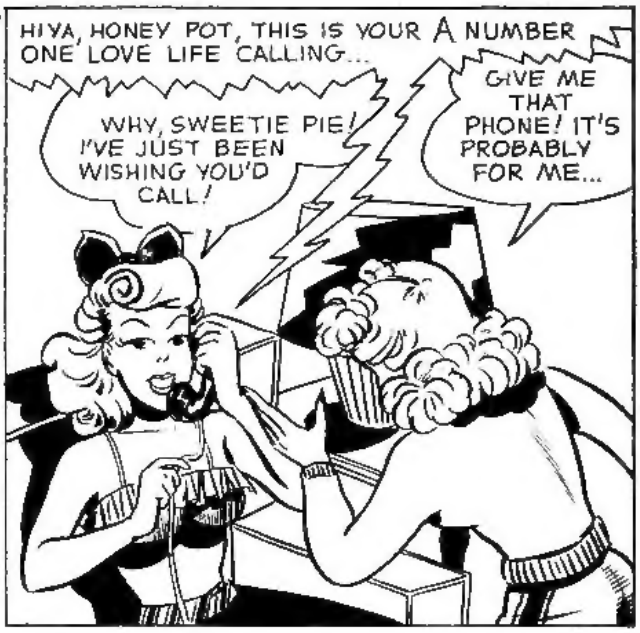
I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN, SO I CAME BACK LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO DO-

-THIS!
UUUGGGGH!
WHAM!

OH, GERRY, I WAS AFRAID I'D LOST YOU! DARLING, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCREAM! I DO LOVE YOU, BUT I WAS AFRAID...
NEVER MIND, MISS BELDON-- THAT IS, MRS. MARSH-TO-BE ... I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID TO JUD--AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME, DARLING!
7

TRUDY 'N JUDY

THERE GOES THE PHONE! GOLLY, HOPE IT'S A DATE... I'LL GET IT!
DON'T BOTHER, I'LL ANSWER IT! I SAID, I'LL ANSWER IT!


HIYA, HONEY POT, THIS IS YOUR A NUMBER ONE LOVE LIFE CALLING...
WHY, SWEETIE PIE! I'VE JUST BEEN WISHING YOU'D CALL!
GIVE ME THAT PHONE! IT'S PROBABLY FOR ME...

LISTEN, BABYDOLL! I JUST GOT PROMOTED! GOT A GREAT BIG RAISE! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, SUGAR?
LOVER BOY! THAT'S JUST MARVELOUS! I ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE A GENIUS!
MOVE OVER! I CAN'T HEAR A THING HE'S SAYING...

YOU AIN'T HEARD NOTHING YET, PEACH PIE! I JUST WON THE JACKPOT ON KILL THE BAND, GOT A BRAND NEW CAR, A TRIP TO BERMUDA, A HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY, A FIVE YEAR SUPPLY OF DOG FOOD...
YOU WONDERFUL MAN, YOU!
AND BESIDES MY UNCLE DIED AND LEFT ME A MILLION DOLLARS!
A MILLION DOLLARS! WHY BABY DOLL! YOU HANDSOME BOY, YOU!
JEEPERS! LET ME TALK TO HIM!

WELL, SWEETNESS AND LIGHT, I CALLED JUST FOR ONE THING WHAT SAY WE GET WRAPPED UP AND SPLICED...LET'S GET MARRIED!
JUDY, SAY, YES, FOR GOODNESS SAKE...!
ANGEL! OF COURSE, I'LL MARRY YOU!

JUDY, YOU'RE RICH! HEAVENS TO BETSY AND LAH DE DAH! WHO WAS THAT, HONEY? WHO'S THE RICH BRIDEGROOM?
DON'T BE SILLY! I COULDN'T INTERUPT THE MAN JUST TO HIM HIS NAME. BESIDES, AFTER ALL THOSE NICE THINGS HE TOLD ME...

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

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	806					
	804					

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